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Daily Report
Soviet Union

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Latest U.S. Arms Talks End in Washington

LD2811110691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2344 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By Tass correspondent Stanislav Lunev]

[Text] Washington, 28 Nov (TASS)—The latest round in the Soviet-U.S. consultations on questions of arms limitation and reduction ended at the U.S. Department of State on 27 November. They continued the bilateral dialogue in this field between the USSR and United States begun in October of this year. The consultations were devoted to a broad set of disarmament questions, primarily based on U.S. President George Bush's initiatives of 27 September and those of USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev of 5 October of this year. At the consultations, the Soviet side was led by Aleksey Obukhov, USSR deputy minister of external relations, and the U.S. side by Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. under secretary of state. In the Soviet delegation were representatives of four sovereign republics: Belarus [Belorussia], Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine.

In a conversation with the TASS correspondent after the consultations at the U.S. Department of State, Aleksey Obukhov said that they primarily concerned questions of implementation of counterinitiatives of the Soviet and U.S. Presidents in the field of nuclear disarmament. The discussions confirmed the two sides' resolution to fulfill entirely the measures announced by the two countries' presidents, directed at further reducing the Soviet and U.S. nuclear arsenals on the basis of following a good example and parallel steps. A number of specific questions were also examined, arising from the counterinitiatives of the leaders of the two countries, including those concerning the methods of liquidating nuclear weapons, safe handling of nuclear charges, and strengthening nuclear safety.

As during the first round of consultations in this field, which was held in Moscow at the beginning of October, the USSR deputy minister of external relations stressed, discussion of all the questions was characterized by a spirit of openness and frankness, and by both sides' desire to find practical ways of further reducing superfluous military structures and strengthening strategic stability. A major constructive contribution to the discussion was made by the representatives of the sovereign republics of Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and the Ukraine, who took part in the consultations. On completion of the consultations at the U.S. State Department, the sides agreed that the discussions in this field will be continued, and the specific forms, dates, and subject matter of these discussions will be agreed on through diplomatic channels.

Vienna Delegation Submits Proposals for Europe

LD2711172691 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov]

[Text] Vienna November 27 TASS—A new working document was submitted to participants in talks on confidence-building measures in Europe by the Soviet delegation at a plenary meeting here today.

The document contains provisions for curtailing military activities and ensuring timely notification about them.

The gist of the Soviet proposal is as follows. The Soviet Union proposes, first of all, an agreement to ban military activities that member-states conduct on their own or in conjunction with other countries on their territory involving more than 40,000 personnel, or 800 combat tanks, or 1500 armoured vehicles.

Secondly, the number of permissible military events should be limited to six a year, provided they involve fewer personnel and less equipment but not more than 13,000 men, or 250 combat tanks, or 300 combat armoured vehicles. Of this number, not more than two should be permitted if they involve more than 25,000 men, or 400 combat tanks, or 750 combat armoured vehicles.

Thirdly, each two years, each member-state should be allowed to hold on its territory—independently or jointly with other countries—only one military event involving more than 40,000 men but anyway not more than 75,000.

Other states should be notified about such an event at least two years in advance.

"We hope," acting Soviet delegation head Vyacheslav Kulebyakin, who has just taken over from Oleg Grinevskiy appointed Soviet ambassador to Sweden, "that these proposals will help make work at the negotiations more specific, circumstantial and constructive"

1,000 Nuclear Warheads Remain in Kazakhstan

LD2811133191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 28 Nov 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev has stated there are more than 1,000 nuclear warheads on the territory of Kazakhstan. In his words, the warheads should remain where they are. At the same time, Nazarbayev has noted that Kazakhstan is not claiming a nuclear monopoly and supports the idea of the united Armed Forces and united centralized control over nuclear weapons.

Nuclear 'Brain Drain' Possibility Arouses Fears

PM2711160191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Nov 91 p 1

[Interview with Professor V.N. Mikhaylov, leader of the Soviet military nuclear program, by A. Khokhlov; place and date not given: "Will Brains Leave?"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] This is front-page news in practically all the world's newspapers: The world community is concerned that the military-industrial complex is disintegrating in connection with the collapse of the USSR. What will happen if our nuclear scientists start working in North Korea, Iraq, or Pakistan—countries which are "an arm's length" away from creating nuclear weapons? Professor V.N. Mikhaylov, leader of the Soviet military nuclear program, answers this question.

[Mikhaylov] I have always said that human heads are the dearest thing in the world. If our country permits a "brain" drain abroad, military-strategic parity in the world will be upset and it will be impossible to speak of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons around the planet—which is the chief problem today.

[Khokhlov] How great is the likelihood that our nuclear scientists will seek to leave the motherland?

[Mikhaylov] So far not one of the serious scientists, of the people who possess important information, the creators of nuclear weapon technologies, has left the country. I can responsibly declare that my colleagues are patriots and none of them wants to go abroad and work on creating weapons for anyone, but how is it possible to live now on 400 rubles a month? This is the average wage of a person working to create nuclear ammunition.

The uncertainty is people's biggest worry. Our government and society just cannot decide whether we need nuclear weapons. Moratoriums are announced and nuclear test sites are closed down, but there are no decisions defining the future fate of scientific establishments working for defense. Whatever happens in the future, it must not be forgotten that without scientific cadres the country will not build a "bright" future. Even if we destroy our nuclear ammunition, we cannot manage without people who are capable of developing modern economical and ecologically clean technologies.

The question of funding for the country's nuclear weapons complex in 1992 has not yet been resolved. Will it be? At the same time we are losing scientists, engineers, and highly skilled workers. Whereas cadre "turnover" in our sector used to be 2 percent a year, in 1991 it is 20-30 percent. It is, as a rule, the best who leave—they go to commercial structures which pay five or six times more.

[Khokhlov] Are there any regime restrictions on travel abroad for defense scientists?

[Mikhaylov] They have always existed. People have usually abided by this principle: Specialists versed in nuclear technologies have been "held back" and been asked or sometimes even made to stay in the USSR for a while, until science has taken a step forward. This usually took between five and 10 years. But now, under conditions of democracy, when the regime structures have noticeably updated their approach to control over the military-industrial complex, the possibility of a nuclear scientist leaving the USSR is becoming perfectly real. An atomic scientist enjoys favorable odds—many countries are prepared to grant him citizenship.

[Khokhlov] Consequently, it will very soon be possible to forget about the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons?

[Mikhaylov] What is a person to do if he only knows how to make atom bombs—and nothing more—when he feels unwanted in his own country?

Worldwide Issues

Churkin Holds External Relations Briefing

Shevardnadze Meets U.S. Envoy

LD2811164191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Nov (TASS)—Eduard Shevarnadze, USSR minister of external relations, today received Robert Strauss, U.S. ambassador in the Soviet Union, at his request. Vitaliy Churkin, head of the USSR Information Department, informed journalists about this at today's briefing. In the course of the talk, the ambassador reported that he intends to give a series of lectures and make a number of public statements in the United States to promote more active economic assistance for the Soviet Union during the difficult time for our country. On behalf of the Soviet leadership and of all the people, Eduard Shevardnadze expressed sincere personal gratitude to Robert Strauss and to the American people as a whole for the noble position adopted on this question of vital importance for us.

Urges 'Realism' in Middle East

LD2811165491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1520 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Nov (TASS)—The Soviet Union welcomes the agreement of Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the Palestinians to send their representatives to Washington to hold bilateral negotiations. This was said at a briefing today by Vitaliy Churkin, chief of the Ministry of External Relations Information Department.

The Soviet Union proceeds from the fact that convening the peace conference in Madrid opened the path to unblocking the Arab-Israeli conflict, he noted. This path can turn out to be long, drawn-out, and difficult, but it must inevitably lead to an all-embracing settlement in the Near East. The Soviet side regards the negotiations in Washington as one of the stages of the peace process leading to the realization of this aim.

The USSR calls on all participants in the negotiations to display maximum constructiveness and realism during the forthcoming negotiations.

Replying to a question from a TASS correspondent in connection with Israel's demand for a postponement of the negotiations in Washington, the USSR Ministry of External Relations spokesman said that what is most important is that the bilateral negotiations should resume. Vitaliy Churkin expressed the hope that detailed questions will be settled to the mutual satisfaction of the sides.

The chief of the USSR Ministry of External Relations Information Directorate did not rule out the possibility that Moscow may become the venue for the next round of the Near East peace conference.

Supports UN Resolution on SFRY

LD2811184291 Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Oleg Polovko and Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—At a briefing in the Press Center of the USSR Foreign Ministry [as received] today Vitaliy Churkin, the Soviet Foreign Ministry's spokesman [title as received], set out the Soviet Union's attitude to U.N. Security Council Resolution 721 adopted on Wednesday [27 November].

The resolution expresses approval for the efforts of the U.N. secretary-general and his personal representative aimed at a political settlement of the crisis in Yugoslavia. The U.N. Security Council instructs the U.N. secretary-general to deliver a report about the possibility of sending U.N. peace-keeping forces to Yugoslavia. It is noted that this operation cannot be implemented without full observance of the ceasefire agreement signed in Geneva on November 23, 1991.

Churkin said the USSR expresses support for the efforts of the United Nations to aid the Yugoslav parties in achieving mutually acceptable arrangements that would lead to a peaceful and constructive settlement of the crisis. He said the USSR is prepared to do its utmost towards easing tension and creating the atmosphere of peace, stability and confidence in the region.

Churkin on Libyan Involvement in Pan Am Bombing

LD2711173191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1706 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Vladimir Suprun and Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Nov (TASS)—In connection with the recent accusations against Libya of involvement in the explosion of the "Pan Am" passenger plane in December 1988, Vitaliy Churkin, head of the USSR Ministry of External Relations Information Department, stated that it is necessary to calmly and throughly examine all the circumstances of this tragedy—especially if it concerns the responsibility not only of individuals or organizations, but of a whole state. Vitaliy Churkin stressed that "the Soviet Union has always condemned and continues to condemn acts of terrorism in all its forms and together with other members of the world community is persistently fighting to eradicate this evil." "We heard with satisfaction the statement by the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs that condemns international terrorism and expresses that country's readiness to cooperate in investigating the accusations made against it," he said.

Churkin Details Current Talks With Iran

LD2511191191 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Information Department of the Ministry of External Relations, held a briefing at the Press Center of the USSR Ministry of External Relations today. The conference was devoted to current events in the country and, in particular, it mentioned the Soviet-Iranian talks currently under way.

Velayati, Iranian minister of foreign affairs, head of the Iranian delegation, showed an interest in opening consulates in a number of sovereign republics and in the opening of these republics' consulates in Tehran.

The ministers reviewed today's state of Soviet-Iranian relations. Answering a question from our correspondent about new points, if any, in Soviet-Iranian relations in connection with the visit by the Iranian leader, Vitaliy Churkin said.

[Begin Churkin recording] There are representatives of industrial, banking, financial, scientific, educational, and cultural organizations here. They are now all having meetings with their colleagues in Moscow, and we are cooperating in all these spheres.

In our view, cooperation with Iran in space is highly promising, and we hope to discuss this sphere of cooperation in Moscow. It is an absolutely new sphere of cooperation which can become mutually advantageous and interesting. [end recording]

Velayati himself held a meeting with Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign relations, today. The Iranian minister was also to be received by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

As has been reported, Velayati is expected to hand Mikhail Gorbachev a message from the president of Iran at a meeting with him tomorrow. Answering a question from our correspondent on the possibility of Iran recognizing Azerbaijan's sovereignty, 'Ali Akbar Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording in Persian with superimposed Russian translation] Regarding our relations with other republics and the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence, its independence will not be recognized. Relations will develop within the framework of the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Shevardnadze Meets NATO Political Delegation

LD2711213291 Moscow TASS in English 2108 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister [as received] Eduard Shevardnadze stressed during today's meeting with the delegation from NATO's Political Committee, the need to go over from overall declarations to a specific dialogue to determine cooperation fields, the Foreign Ministry [as received] Information Directorate reported today.

We are no longer enemies as before, the minister noted, but we have not yet begun new relations and haven't worked out principles of collective security.

Much attention was given to an analysis of possible negative consequences of instability in the Soviet Union. Shevardnadze expressed confidence that despite present difficulties, it will eventually become possible to build a new confederative democratic state.

Demilitarizing the country is an inalienable part of democratizing society, Shevardnadze said. Movement in this direction is facilitated by the moral, political and economic aid from the West.

"I think that as a result of the conversation that covered a wide range of problems, we have got a clearer idea and a better understanding of the current situation in the Soviet Union," NATO Political Council delegation leader John Crindler told TASS after the meeting.

In his conversation with Shevardnadze, Crindler confirmed the West's readiness to extend assistance to the Soviet Union in carrying out democratic transformations and market reform, as well as spoke in favour of developing contacts between NATO and the Soviet Union.

NATO Official Comments

LD2711214691 Moscow TASS in English 2041 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Pershin]

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—Changes in the Soviet Union, its democratization as well as market reforms promote NATO cooperation with the USSR, while uncertainties in Soviet developments impede it, John Crindler, head of the NATO Political Committee delegation, told TASS today after his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister [as received] Eduard Shevardnadze.

The NATO official said he came to a better understanding of Soviet problems after discussing a wide range of problems with the Soviet minister.

Crindler is heading a delegation of representatives of 15 out of 16 NATO member-states, working in the alliance's Political Committee. The delegation arrived to Moscow at the invitation of Soviet Foreign Ministry [as received] to discuss European security, disarmament and military planning problems.

NATO and the Soviet Union should develop contacts, Crindler believes. He told Eduard Shevardnadze that the West is ready "to support Soviet democratic and market reforms".

Crindler said a wide range of NATO decisions adopted in Rome by heads of state and government of the alliance's member-countries was discussed. He believes the opening on December 20 of the first meeting of the North Atlantic Council for Cooperation will herald the beginning of a new phase of relations between the USSR and the alliance.

The Council for Cooperation is being created according to the decisions of the NATO session in Rome to promote contacts with the USSR and eastern Europe, mostly in the military sphere.

Shaposhnikov Meets With NATO Official

LD2711134391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1256 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Nov (TASS)—"The meeting with General Eide has once again confirmed the correctness of our concept of the unity of the Armed Forces of the Union as a most important factor in internal stability and international security," Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, USSR minister of defense stated, in an interview today to a TASS correspondent following his meeting with General Vigleid Eide, chairman of the NATO Military Committee, who along with other NATO representatives is participating in the work of the international conference entitled: "Armed Forces and Military Service in a Law-Governed State."

According to Marshal of the Air Force Shaposhnikov a wide range of questions connected with topical problems of international security at the present-day stage were discussed at the meeting. "We exchanged opinions about practical steps being taken to reduce armaments and to reform existing structures in the Armed Forces," the defense minister said. He added that the sides agreed that "deepening confidence and mutual understanding is an important link in the further improvement of East-West relations."

"It was important for us not only to listen to the opinion of your country's new military leadership on a number of issues but also to understand how the process of the reforms of the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union is proceeding and to talk about those changes which have also affected NATO in recent times," General Eide stressed. In his opinion, when such important processes are taking place, in the world contacts between military men become increasingly important. General Eide considers that "we are now discussing problems in an atmosphere of openness and friendship. This has also been shown by the meeting that has taken place."

Shevardnadze Meets UN Social Office Envoy

LD2711165591 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—U.N. assistance to the Soviet Union and, in particular, the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster was discussed today by Soviet Foreign Minister [as received] Eduard Shevardnadze and visiting director general of the U.N. office in Vienna, Margaret Anstee.

The Vienna centre, a major U.N. office for social assistance, helps many countries who are switching to a market economy, Margaret Anstee told TASS. "Our experience can be useful for the USSR in overcoming the negative consequences of market transition," she said.

Delegation Abstains on UN Middle East Vote

LD2811122491 Moscow TASS in English 1122 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Mikhail Kochetkov]

[Text] New York November 28 TASS—The Soviet delegation to the U.N. changed its traditional stand while voting on a number of resolutions on Mideast. The Soviet representative on Wednesday abstained together with the U.S. and Dominican delegates from voting to stop Israel from deporting Palestinians, a situation unimaginable a little while ago, when the Soviet Union always supported such resolutions. The Israeli representative voted against the decision while all other countries, including the Ukraine, voted "for".

The draft resolution calls on Israel to free all Palestinians and other Arabs, arbitrarily detained or imprisoned. A similar attitude was demonstrated by the Soviet delegate while voting on other decisions involving Israel.

Addressing special Political Committee members, Soviet representative Aleksey Podtserov said the reason for this position is that the Soviet Union, which co-chaired the Mideast peace conference, thinks it unreasonable to vote on issues at the U.N. General Assembly which are subject to discussion at the conference.

The U.S., the second co-chair at the conference, decided not to change its traditional position.

EBRD Announces Loans for Two Major Projects

LD2711102291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0240 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Sisnev]

[Text] London, 27 Nov (TASS)—The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], which was founded to help the countries of Eastern Europe, the USSR included, announced on Tuesday that it is offering financing for two major projects in the Soviet Union.

The EBRD is to loan 12.5 million dollars to a subsidiary of the American "Parker Drilling Company" to start building three oil platforms in west Siberia. The same subsidiary will operate these installations under a contract concluded with the Soviet-American joint venture "White Knights Joint Enterprises."

The EBRD feels that financing these projects will give the Soviet Union access to modern oil-extraction technology from the West, which is essential if a further reduction in oil output is to be prevented. It is believed here that the contract will help bolster the world oil industry's confidence in the prospects for the oil industry on Soviet territory.

As was also announced on Tuesday, the EBRD is to lend 6.5 million dollars to the Soviet company "Sovintel," which is to build a new digital international telephone system in Moscow Oblast. This system will be completely independent of the current international dialling service for subscribers in Moscow, and when it comes on line it will provide hotels, business centers, and company offices with high-quality telephone and fax lines. It will have considerable earnings potential in freely convertible currency.

In addition to the loans for these two projects, the EBRD has already advanced 6.5 million ecus for a managerial training program for Russia, privatization, and establishment of a food distribution system.

Northeast Asia

Gorbachev Meets Japanese Business Delegation

Business Cooperation Urged

OW2711151891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1434 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 27 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday called for Japanese and U.S. cooperation in developing Soviet oil resources, a major source of foreign currency. Gorbachev also asked for Japan's cooperation in transforming military industries into civil use and in constructing more houses during the Soviet Union's transition to a market economy.

Gorbachev made the requests to the 35-member business leaders delegation for the study of economic cooperation, organized by KYODO news service, in a meeting at the Kremlin. The mission is headed by Toshikuni Yashiro, vice chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

On Moscow-Tokyo political relations, Gorbachev said the two nations have recently achieved advances as a result of mutual concessions. He attributed stalled relations between the two neighbors not only to the Japanese Foreign Ministry but also the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The Soviet leader also said he hopes for future Japanese economic cooperation with the Russian Federation.

In the Kremlin meeting, Yashiro told Gorbachev that the Soviet Union should make restoring oil production its priority and also suggested Japan and the United States could cooperate in oil development projects. Gorbachev agreed and disclosed that the Soviet Union has already launched large-scale development projects for oil and natural gas with the U.S. and Canada.

Gorbachev told the delegation he hopes to increase oil exports by upgrading oil refinery capacities, saying current refining capacity is only 60-65 percent of the total production of crude oil.

He added he wants to boost oil exports to secure a fund for repaying loans from major industrialized nations.

He deplored the fact that the current oil price in the Soviet Union is lower than that of mineral water. The price of crude oil in the Soviet Union is only 2 U.S. dollars per ton, while the international price is 120 dollars, he said. Gorbachev said he intends to raise domestic crude oil prices in the future.

As for the conversion of military industries to civil use, Gorbachev suggested Japanese cooperation at "the world's best tank factory" in St. Petersburg which the Japanese delegation has already inspected. Yashiro told Gorbachev he hopes to do a feasibility study on the conversion as the tank factory needs substantial repair work.

'New Stage' of Relations Viewed

LD2811020191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1536 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, 27 Nov (TASS)—President M.S. Gorbachev today received the senior group of a 40-person delegation representing Japanese business circles and led by Mr. Yahiro Toshikuni. The visitors have already spent a week studying the possibilities of economic cooperation, particularly in the fields of power engineering, conversion, and the modernization of other branches of industry.

Japanese Prime Minister K. Miyazawa sent a letter of introduction with the delegation in which he commended this authoritative delegation representing private enterprise to the president. Cooperation with private enterprise could assist our economic reform and help improve the general atmosphere of relations between us, thus promoting progress toward a peace treaty as well.

M.S. Gorbachev welcomed the delegation's substantive and very concrete approach to its mission, through which it makes on-site studies of quite specific installations and conducts businesslike talks on the most promising and mutually advantageous facilities which appear to be capable of producing a tangible yield in a short period of time. He particularly stressed the fact that private capital, with its enormous potential, is getting involved in the general development of our relations with Japan. This shows that relations are in a new stage, and this could significantly accelerate the whole process of mutual accommodation and bring nearer the signing of a peace treaty. The president also noted the natural preference in cooperation shown to Russia. M.S. Gorbachev also pointed to the extremely timely nature of cooperation in the sphere of construction given the development of private farms and reductions in the Army.

The president supported that delegation's conclusions regarding the current paramount significance of modernizing and raising the capacity of oil production and refining. A significant proportion of Japan's share of the credits of the "Big Seven" could be used toward this end. Assistance in this respect could be organized on a trilateral basis—with the participation of the United States, and also with due regard to the degree to which a number of West European and Canadian firms are already involved in this area.

The analysis which T. Yahiro gave in a conversation on the state of cooperation testifies to an understanding of our problems and to the seriousness of this approach. This is of vast significance both for bilateral relations and in the broad international context.

The KYODO TSUSHIN news agency took part in organizing this important visit by representatives of Japan's business circles. Following the meeting M.S. Gorbachev gave T. Hasegawa, deputy director of the agency, replies to questions submitted earlier.

The following participated: on the Japanese side, T. Yahiro, S. Edamura, T. [name indistinct], H. Araki, A. Idemitsu, S. [word indistinct], Y. Kokubo, H. Sugiyama, K. Endo, N. Hori, K. Sugimori, Y. Kamata, H. Yoshida, T. Homma, and T. Hasegawa; and on the Soviet side, V.N. Ignatenko, A.S. Grachev, A.S. Chernyayev, I.A. Rogachev, S.V. Malinin, and Yu.V. Tavrovskiy.

'Trends of Cooperation' Discussed

LD2711151791 Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—Possible trends of cooperation between Japan and the Soviet Union in new domestic and international conditions were discussed during a meeting between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and a delegation of Japanese business people in the Kremlin today, the presidential press service informed TASS.

The delegation of Japanese entrepreneurs is staying in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Foreign Policy Association. The delegation is headed by Yahiro Toshikuni, vice president of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organisations and president of the Association for Trade with the USSR and East European Countries. During the stay in the Soviet Union, Japanese business people discussed cooperation in the defence industry, conversion, processing of oil and other energy sources. Proposals for cooperation in housing construction, especially in rural areas, were made to Soviet partners.

Gorbachev summed up the state of the Soviet economy. He said that Japanese business people should not assess everything they see from the viewpoint of instant results. They should visualise a more profound potential inherent in Soviet enterprises, particularly in the defence industry.

Japanese business people offered to the USSR on a commercial basis high technologies for oil processing. They also suggested that 2.5 billion dollars planned to be allocated to the USSR, be invested in oil extraction and processing.

The Japanese side expressed the readiness to cooperate with the USSR in the framework of the USSR-USA-Japan triangle and promote the solution of problems now encountered by the USSR.

Shevardnadze Meets With Japanese Businessmen

Discusses Future Relations

LD2611213891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1933 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Nov (TASS)—Before the meeting with the delegation of Japanese businessmen today, USSR External Relations Minister Eduard Shevardnadze declared: "I am sure that our relations with Japan will develop successfully." The meeting was devoted to a discussion of the present state of bilateral relations and the prospects for their future development.

The delegation of the Japanese business circles, led by Yahiro Toshikuni, vice president of the Federation of Japan's Industrial Organizations, came to the Soviet Union specifically to assess the economic situation, to explore the Soviet market and the possibility of finding business partners. The delegation pays special attention to problems of conversion and the possibility of cooperating in this area. Tomorrow the delegation of Japanese businessmen expect to be received by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Warns of Possible Coup

OW2711040291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0342 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow, Nov 27 (KYODO)—Soviet Foreign Relations Minister Eduard Shevardnadze warned Wednesday [27 November] that another coup d'etat may strike the Soviet Union even after the August hard-line coup was aborted.

"Many reactionary forces intent on reviving a totalitarian regime have survived the failed coup and another coup d'etat and riot may strike the Union," he said.

The foreign minister issued the warning in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE and the 35-member Business Leaders' Delegation for the Study of Economic Cooperation. The delegation is headed by Toshikuni Yahiro, vice chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

Shevardnadze played a prophetic role by warning Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev not to underestimate the threat from hard-liners—eight months before Gorbachev was ousted for three days in the botched coup by an emergency committee of hard-liners.

Warning the Soviet people of an approaching "dictatorship" in a dramatic speech to parliament last December, Shevardnadze resigned as foreign minister.

When the coup came, Shevardnadze denounced the hard-liners from barricades put up by citizens.

On Wednesday [27 November], Shevardnadze said he decided to resume his post because he "could not stand idly by" as "the destructive process is underway at present."

Referring to the ongoing disintegration of Soviet central authority, Shevardnadze said, "instability in the Soviet Union poses a greater threat to the world than nuclear weapons and environmental destruction."

On Gorbachev's repeated attempts—so far unsuccessful—to enlist the Soviet republics in a new treaty of political unity, Shevardnadze said the treaty to establish a new association known as the union of sovereign states will be agreed upon soon, even if some republics continue refusing to join.

"Even if some republics do not initial the treaty, the Soviet Union will continue to exist as a superpower," he said, adding that he would never have resumed his foreign relations portfolio without this conviction.

He unveiled this forecast only two days after leaders of seven republics declined to initial the treaty designed to maintain the central government's role in defense and economic powers and set up a looser, more republic-oriented union government.

Much of the central authority is being transferred to the 12 republics, some of which have already decided to initiate their own armies and secure the authority to manage their economies.

He called on full-fledged economic cooperation from Japan to bolster the faltering Soviet economy, saying, "only economic reforms could alleviate this threat."

Shevardnadze sought Japan aid to help convert Soviet military industries to civilian uses and establish long-term, mutually beneficial economic relations, such as development of Soviet oil fields and agriculture.

Shevardnadze said he is seriously considering visiting Japan in the near future to strengthen bilateral relations.

The foreign minister suggested that the bilateral territorial dispute over four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido could be resolved if the two countries initiate new economic cooperation measures.

He said he believes Japan has a large role to play in initiating a process in "Euro-Asia" similar to the economic and legal integration now underway in the European Community.

Shevardnadze also said he rejoined the government, replacing Boris Pankin, because he was convinced Gorbachev had learned a bitter lesson from the coup, in which the president was betrayed by hard-line aides he himself had elevated to high portfolios.

Shevardnadze said the biggest assignment facing the Ministry of Foreign Relations—a recent merger of the former Foreign Ministry and Ministry of External Economic Relations—is to "remove all the obstacles" to developing relations with foreign countries.

He said he is convinced he can make several contributions in this field.

Meets Delegation Leader

LD2711155991 Moscow TASS in English 1141 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—According to Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Department, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met with Toshikuni Yahiro on Tuesday. Yahiro, chairman of the Japanese Association for Trade with the Soviet Union and East European Countries, is currently heading the "delegation of acquaintance with Soviet economy."

The two sides noted with satisfaction the last year's summit in Japan greatly improved all aspects of bilateral relations. Both agreed that radical change in the Soviet Union and throughout the world has opened up new horizons for cooperation between the Soviet Union and Japan. They also discussed ways of implementing cooperative programmes.

Japanese Report on Gas Extraction Denied

LD2711155691 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS corresspondent Vladimir Belyayev]

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—The Gasprom Company steadily supplies its customers with fuel and raw materials, said Rem Vyakhirev, vice president of the company's board, disproving a report of the Japanese newpaper TOKYO SHIMBUN about a sharp falloff of gas extraction in the Soviet Union. According to the report, only 410 billion cubic metres of gas, virtually half of target for the year, was extracted from January to September as a result of cuts in capital investments in this industry.

"This information needs to be corrected," Vyakhirev said. "The Soviet Union entire output for ten months is 671.7 billion cubic metres of gas, and Gasprom produces most of it. It will extract 749.2 billion cubic metres of gas by the end of December, while the country's overall output will reach 810.8 billion cubic metres."

The Gasprom council has recently discussed plans for the industry's development and next year's forecast for social and economic development. In 1992 Gasprom will extract 752 billion cubic metres of gas, while the country's total will be 814 billion cubic metres.

Natural gas is regarded as the best and cheapest fuel. But it is now being extracted farther in the north, and thus requires large capital investments and outlays of work, Vyakhirev said. Nevertheless, there are plans to begin gas exstraction in the Yamal peninsula in future years.

Next year the increase in gas output will be achieved mainly through gas extraction from the Yamburg deposit, while gas extraction in Urengoy, Orenburg, Turkmenia, Komi and the Ukraine will be reduced.

The development of the industry requires capital construction. Only 25-30 per cent of the annual plan for opening new facilities was fulfilled, and only 1.5 thousand kilometres of gas pipelines were laid out. To counter this, Gasprom plans to invest 14.6 billion rubles into construction next year, Vyakhirev said.

East Europe

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Yugoslav Crisis

LD2711194691 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1830 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Interview with Minister of External Relations Eduard Shevardnadze by an unidentified Budapest TV correspondent in Moscow, date not given; Shevardnadze speaks in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The Hungarian-Soviet basic agreement is ready to be signed. When will you travel to Budapest?

[Shevardnadze] The problem is that I do not know.

[Correspondent] The Yugoslav situation worries us very much. What kind of solution do you find feasible?

[Shevardnadze] We have seen certain positive signs in the recent past. I believe the UN role should be intensified.

[Correspondent] Do you agree that UN troops should be sent to Yugoslavia?

[Shevardnadze] You know, I would support some kind of symbolic action. A symbolic action.

[Correspondent] And at the borders of Yugoslavia?

[Shevardnadze] I do not know. If necessary, then to the borders as well, but if they sent troops to the country itself, that would probably help.

Minister Rebuts TASS Report on Arms Sales

LD2611234391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0951 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Sergey Zhirnikhin and Andrey Kuklin]

[Text] Budapest, 26 Nov (TASS)—A TASS report from Moscow to the effect that A. Shishani, member of the leadership of the Chechen Path of Islam Party, was here on a mission to purchase arms has provoked a lively reaction in Hungary. According to this report, the Chechen envoy sought to make contact with illegal arms dealers who are allegedly supplying arms to Yugoslavia, in particular.

Andras Galszecsy, minister without portfolio who supervises the Hungarian security service, has described this report as bearing no relation to reality. In an interview published in today's edition of NEPSZABADSAG, he stressed that no arms supplies whatsoever are being sent to Yugoslavia from Hungarian territory. The authorities know nothing of the existence of any kind of groups engaged in contraband arms.

In the words of A. Galszecsy, the TASS report also arouses great surprise because in all probability it is possible to obtain arms in many places between the Caucasus and the Western borders of the USSR. These places are much closer to Chechen territory than Budapest.

"If the information really was leaked to TASS from intelligence sources, I would be happy if in the future, the competent Soviet bodies would share such information with me. The exchange of such information serves to strengthen stability and the intensification of the struggle of the relevant special services against terrorism. Concerning the alleged visit to Hungary by A. Shishani, the competent Hungarian bodies have received no information whatsoever from Moscow," A.Galseci stated.

Ministry Denies Soviet Servicemen Executed

OW2711190791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1501 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A spokesman for the USSR Ministry for External Relations has qualified as "total nonsense" the recent allegations of the Hungarian news agency MTI that 2,200 Soviet servicemen who allegedly went over to the side of the insurgents in 1956 were shot dead in the courtyard of the Soviet Embassy in Budapest.

"From the first to the last day of the 1956 events I was in Budapest. I lived in the building of the Soviet Embassy, and therefore I can assert responsibly that there was not a single incident of the kind described by the Hungarian news agency," Vladimir Kazimirov told IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent.

The diplomat who is the chief of the African Department of the USSR Ministry for External Relations served as an attache of the Soviet Embassy in Hungary in 1956.

The Hungarian news agency repudiated the number of victims, but it is not clear whether it disowned its report as a whole or not.

In this connection V. Kazimirov believes that it's necessary to thoroughly discuss the issue of the news media's social function. Unfortunately the diplomat stressed, the news media often publish misinformation, deluding their own people and public opinion in other countries.

West Europe

Further Reportage on Silayev Visit to Brussels

Cannot 'Rule Out' Another Coup

LD2811150691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0900 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS Correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels 28 Nov (TASS)—Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee [IEC] ended his visit to Brussels late last night.

In the course of the visit the IEC chairman signed an agreement on the European Community extending credit guarantees to the sum of 500 million ECU's [European Currency Units] for food purchases. He had talks with Jacques Delors, chairman of the EEC Commission, and with other leaders on questions of broadening cooperation with the EC. He also met Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.

Before his departure, Ivan Silayev held a press conference at which he replied to numerous questions from journalists concerning both the results of the visit and also the situation which has taken shape in the country. Speaking about the problems connected with foreign debt payments, he emphasized that until recently the Soviet Union was one of the most reliable credit payers and expressed confidence that the difficulties in this area, caused by economic decline, are temporary and will be overcome. In conditions of a smoothly functioning market economy, toward which we are currently moving, he said, we have enough resources for this. These are our natural wealth, high scientific and technological potential, and a fairly high level of development of the defense industries which are being put on a peaceful footing. Moreover, other states, above all the developing countries, owe the Union one and a half times more than it itself owes.

The IEC chairman did not agree with the Western press appraisal to the effect that the postponement of initialling the Union treaty has become a defeat for those who advocated that it should be signed. Had the treaty been initialled, he said, this document would hardly have been ratified by the republics in the near future. I think that there was too much haste here, since its text was not known to the public nor to the parliaments of the sovereign states. That is why, anticipating difficulties, the members of the State Council agreed to have it preliminarily discussed in commissions of the national parliaments. This will evidently take between two and three weeks. I think that it was a correct decision which will surely lead to the treaty being signed. Only one thing remains unknown: how many republics will sign it. In any case this number will not be less than seven.

Many questions concerned the system of distributing the food which will be purchased with the EC credits. Ivan Silayev stated that this matter is being dealt with by a commission comprising representatives of 12 sovereign states. It is these representatives who will have to decide whether the eight republics that signed a memorandum on joint responsibility for the Union debt will enjoy priority here.

Is a repetition of the August events possible? In the view of the IEC chairman, in the conditions of a grave economic situation one cannot, theoretically, rule out an attempt to go back to the old structures and eliminate the democratic gains. However, the prospect of becoming integrated within the world economic system, the support being shown by the European Community and other countries give us a chance to overcome the existing difficulties without bloodshed and on democratic principles.

Ivan Silayev also stressed the importance of making use of the experience of the EC, the organizational structure of the leading bodies of which was taken as a basis in setting up the IEC. The meetings in Brussels, he said, have confirmed that we have acted correctly, because we have yet to go through the stages and overcome the barriers the community came up against during the period of its emergence. The main weapon of its leading bodies is patience and an ability to find compromises and to attain consensus. We must learn this art.

Compares Union Economic Setup, EC

PM2911093791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Nov 91 p 4

["Topical Theme" interview with I.S. Silayev, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee, by V. Peresada: "I. Silayev: 'The Main Thing is to Feed the People'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Brussels, 27 Nov—A delegation from our Interstate Economic Committee [IEC] headed by its chairman, I.S. Silayev, has paid a visit here. At the end of the visit I. Silayev answered your PRAVDA correspondent's questions.

[Peresada] Ivan Stepanovich, this is your first trip abroad as chairman of the IEC. Why was it to Brussels in particular?

[Silayev] Because this is the location of the EC's leading organs and it is particularly important for us to talk and deal with them now. The specific aims are these: signing an agreement whereby the EC will grant credits totalling 500 million ECU's [European Currency Units] which are intended for the purchase of food, talks on allocating a bigger credit—1.25 billion ECU's—for the same aim, and a detailed familiarization with the mechanism, structures, and experience of the EC's activity.

[Peresada] What are the results of your visit insofar as it relates to financial support? And most important, when can food supplies be expected?

[Silayev] In addition to the 500 million ECU agreement, the sides also signed a banking agreement which makes it possible to begin the actual implementation of purchases in the very near future. Food supplies could begin by the end of December. But the next stage connected with the 1.25-billion ECU credit is even more important. We have held the preliminary talks and it would be very good if the agreement was prepared and signed before the end of the year. That would help us with food in an even more difficult period—late January, February, and March.

[Peresada] How will deliveries be distributed under the existing agreement? Who decides?

[Silayev] Wheat and meat—everything has been arranged literally by the tonne in accordance with the requests which the republics have made. Do not think that someone at the top has "estimated" without asking anyone or taking anything into account. We have studied the republics' actual harvests and actual purchases from their own figures and have ascertained what is in short supply. And these actual needs have been enshrined unchanged in the document. In other words, each republic can see there just what it asked for.

It is very important to make prompt and precise deliveries of food to the republics. Particularly when they have to make extremely crucial and, one might say, risky steps in the transition to price liberalization. If the stores do not have food at least at the level that we had in summer, everything is doomed to fail. After all, it is terrible when the people are hungry and cannot buy food even when they have the money. Thus it is necessary to organize as quickly as possible the practical fulfillment of the support which the international community is giving us. There is no task more important today than feeding the people. If that is not resolved matters will have gone beyond reforms.

[Peresada] What useful lessons did you gain from the EC's experience? Clearly, it is of special interest now when an essentially similar economic area is developing in our country, is that not so?

[Silayev] Yes, of course. When the question arose of how to organize our economic community and of what the IEC should be like, we did not see a single structure in the world as close to ours as this one. The main figure in the EC and now in our community, too, is the state. At the same time, we can see that a tremendous role here is played by those organs which help the EC members exercise their sovereign rights and pool efforts where this is advantageous for economic or other reasons. In our country at the moment any such function causes alarm: Is this not the "center" again, imposing things from above. The EC, however, is increasingly building up the functions of the coordinating structure—the EC Commission.

Of course, you cannot directly compare their situation with ours. But bearing in mind that the mechanism and configuration of both communities are beginning to resemble one another, the EC's experience should be examined very closely. We are taking only the first steps whereas they have 40 years of activity behind them which, incidentally, has not always been successful. It is necessary to make maximum use of the best and the useful things that they have and learn not to repeat their mistakes.

That is why we talked in detail with the commission's leadership on how the EC structures operate. Of course, during a short visit it is impossible to "grasp" or assess everything which relates to us. Everything must be examined in greater depth. I think that as soon as we complete the staffing of the IEC we will send people here for study. It would be no bad thing for our former republics which are now sovereign states to familiarize themselves with this system, too.

Comments on Aid Distribution

LD2811115791 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—"There is no problem more important today than to feed the people," Chairman of the USSR Interstate Economic Committee Ivan Silayev told TASS at the end of his visit to Belgium.

During the visit, the Soviet delegation signed an agreement with the European Community on guarantees to credits, amounting to 500 million ECU [European Currency Unit], which will be used to purchase food products for the USSR. They are expected to begin arriving in the Soviet Union already this December. "The foodstuffs will be distributed strictly according to requests received from the republics," Silayev said. "Regular deliveries to the republics will begin now, at the time when prices are being set free there".

"The next stage of cooperation with EC countries envisages another credit of 1.25 billion ECU. The preliminary negotiations have already ended. We expect to complete this work before the year is up," Silayev noted. "The EC nations are taking steps to enhance the coordinating functions of the European Communities Commission. In our country any such function is regarded with apprehension. The sovereign states—our former republics—should familiarise themselves with the EC system. It's worth the while," Silayev stressed.

Discusses Agrarian Reform

LD2711170391 Moscow TASS in English 1521 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels November 27 TASS—The Belgian experience in state building and resolving national problems may be useful for the Soviet Union, said Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and visiting chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee Ivan Silayev during their meeting here today.

Silayev told the Belgian prime minister about the difficulties concerning the formation of a new Union of

Sovereign States. All the participants in the State Council's meeting confirmed that the Union will be created, but it will require much work, tolerance, and sensitivity to mutual interests.

Silayev and Martens discussed prospects for the expansion of bilateral cooperation, especially in the areas of the Soviet agrarian reform, the development of farms, and the creation of a modern system to process and store agricultural products.

Martens called for boosting the activities of Belgian manufacturers at the Union market, including Belgian firms' participation in the conversion of the defence industry.

He also promised the Belgian Government's support, in particular, by guaranteeing Belgian credits and investments.

Departs for Visit to France

LD2811194791 Moscow TASS in English 1924 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Viktor Runov]

[Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee (IEC), left here for France tonight for a visit, during which he will meet President Francois Mitterrand and members of the French Government.

Silayev is heading for France with a view to realising the basic understandings reached between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Mitterrand during their latest meeting in London in summer this year.

This concerns primarily expansion of Soviet-French cooperation to stimulate economic reforms in the Soviet Union.

When in Paris, Silayev is to hold an in-depth exchange of views aimed at integrating the Soviet Union into the European economic system.

During a news conference at the ramp of the plane, the IEC chairman pointed out that Soviet-French cooperation is of great importance to the Soviet Union. The USSR is prepared to implement large-scale joint projects on the basis of mutual benefit, he said.

"We shall seek to direct our contacts into the realm of specific cooperation to establish relationships with certain firms and enterprises," Silayev pointed out.

"Talks will also be held on getting a credit of five billion French Francs, or approximately 500 million U.S. dollars. Part of the amount will be handed over as the French contribution in aid to the USSR through EC channels. The other funds will be used for the delivery of food to our country".

Barannikov Concludes Visit to Austria

LD2711061691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1421 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Vienna, 26 Nov (TASS)—Viktor Barannikov, USSR minister of internal affairs, concluded his official three-day visit to Austria today. He was here at the invitation of the Interior Ministry of that country.

During the course of the visit V. Barannikov held talks with Austrian Interior Minister Franz Loeschnak which led to the signing of a joint protocol to develop the bilateral agreement on cooperation which was concluded in Vienna in 1990. This protocol provides for the implementation of a plan of specific measures in 1992 by both ministries in the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking as well as in the field of exchanging experience and training cadres. The ministers also discussed problems arising from the development of migratory processes and measures to protect national economic interests and credit and finance systems.

On the final day of his stay in the Austrian capital, V. Barannikov visited the Crime Police Federal Service and Interpol's National Central Bureau in Austria, where he was shown the general structure and workings of the departments. He also visited laboratories where Austrian criminal investigation specialists work.

Yesterday the USSR Minister of Internal Affairs was introduced to the work of a special antiterrorist subunit of the Austrian "Cobra" gendarmerie.

In a conversation with a TASS correspondent, Barannikov expressed satisfaction with the results of the visit and the businesslike and constructive nature of the talks. The further development of a mutual dialogue and broadening and deepening cooperation on the basis of the fulfillment of a specific program of planned measures will help increase the effectiveness of the efforts being undertaken by both countries to solve such a serious social problem as the fight against crime, he stressed.

Supreme Soviet

Implementation of 1991 Soviet Budget Discussed

Session Asked To Approve Credits

LD2811161191 Moscow TASS in English 1408 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksandr Dzublo]

[Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—The joint session of parliament houses resumed discussions on the implementation of the Soviet budget for 1991. The Interstate Economic Committee, supporting President Mikhail Gorbachev's bid to allocate a 90.5 billion rouble credit to the Ministry of Finance, addressed parliament on the issue.

Delegates were also asked to approve a 68 billion ruble credit request from Gorbachev made this summer. The emergency spendings are caused by a necessity to stabilise the worsening economic situation. Gorbachev, the Finance Ministry and the State Bank were critisised to the point that proposals were made to pass a "no confidence" verdict to State Bank Chairman Viktor Geraschenko.

The discussion showed parliament members are likely to support the summer credit of 68 billion, while the decision on 90.5 billion credit is uncertain.

State Bank Credits Confirmed

LD2811183691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1716 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondents Aleksandr Dzyublo and Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, Nov 28 (TASS)—The Soviet of Republics—the upper house of the Union parliament—agreed today that the USSR State Bank will lend 90.5 billion rubles to the USSR Ministry of Finance. USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev applied for the loan for the fourth quarter of the current year. The Soviet of Republics also confirmed the president's permission of 3 July 1991 for the USSR State Bank to provide a loan of 68 billion rubles for financing the state measures which cannot be funded from planned incomes that flow into the Union budget and the Union fund for the stabilization of the country's economy. The decision, adopted by the house, deems it impermissible for existing approaches to be used for drawing up the 1992 budget. It was proposed that the USSR State Council and the Interstate Economic Committee conclude an agreement on the budget of the Economic Community for next year before 10 December. Although the Soviet of Republics has considered the decision on credits, it cannot be enforced until it is adopted by the other house, the Soviet of the Union. The latter could not vote today as there was no quorum. The deputies spoke with indignation about their absent colleagues who ignored the meeting for various reasons.

Bakatin Delivers Speech on KGB Reorganization

LD2711231991 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1900 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Parliamentary Diary" program]

[Text] Both chambers of the country's Supreme Soviet were at work today. The morning and afternoon sessions of the Soviet of the Republics can probably be categorized as being unenterprising, although the issues that were being considered were very serious ones indeed.

Bakatin, chairman of the present KGB, spoke on the first draft law about reorganizing the state security bodies. The USSR draft law envisages the creation of independent and separate services for intelligence and state security and a border service. In his speech he said in particular:

[Begin Bakatin recording] The obvious need to reorganize the KGB is not the aim itself. It stems logically from the transformation of our political and national and state structure. After the failure of the August coup, in the preparation of which some KGB leaders were actively involved, the need has been urgent and a measure wanting no delay. This is the conclusion that was reached by the state commission investigating the activities of the state security bodies, which demanded the immediate abolition of the USSR KGB and a fundamental reorganization of its structure.

Under the conditions of the transitional period, in which we all now find ourselves, when the new legislative bodies have not yet been put into operation, the USSR State Council on 22 October acknowledged the expediency of abolishing the Committee of State Security, and on its basis created a central intelligence service, an interrepublican security service, and a committee on guarding the state borders. Certainly the integral structure, and even more so the functions, of the special services cannot be finally defined before the treaty is signed on the Union of Sovereign States. Nevertheless, since the legislators have never been proceeding from the standpoint of the elimination of the Union State, and since further delay in defining the structure of the special services is inadmissible, I ask you, esteemed deputies, to consider and adopt the draft law that is being proposed, while fully realizing the particular features of the transitional period.

It is important that this is the first step of real juridical interaction between the State Council and the Soviet of the Republics. To the extent that is possible during this transitional period the law will bring clarity to an issue of grave state importance and will make it possible to continue work on reforming the special services. In brief, the essence of this reform that is now beginning is as follows: first, the total deideologization of the special services; second, and most important, the formation of a juridical base that corresponds to a democratic state and the general recognized norms of human rights; third, as much openness toward the state as is possible for the special services; fourth, strict and total legislative supervision—breaking away from my text, let me say that we are already beginning to feel this—and fifth, segmentation. Indeed during the very first month after the coup the special troops, the communications troops, the Moscow directorate, the Special Purpose Military Detachment [OMON] service, the government communications directorate, and the coding service were removed from the jurisdiction of the central apparatus of the KGB. By a decree of the chairman of the KGB a whole number of sub-units of the central apparatus totalling over 20,000 persons are at present being handed over to the Russian KGB that is now being formed, and all oblast, kray, and republican security committees have been subordinated to it.

The sixth important principle of the reform—and I must underline this especially, because this is actually the core of the whole reform—is the complete independence of the republican bodies of special services. The Union KGB, overcentralized, cannot exist any more in conditions of independence of the republics. The interrepublican Security Service will function mainly and primarily as a coordinator of the counterintelligence work of independent republican structures, and will also participate in coordinating the activity of all the autonomous and independent special services of the country.

In order to achieve this, a coordinating council of the Interrepublican Security Service was set up comprising the leaders of the republican bodies. The process of creating the necessary judicial framework of the relations between the Interrepublican Security Service and the security organs of the republics during the transition period is underway. An agreement was signed on cooperation with the security services of the Ukraine, Belarus [Belorussia], Moldova, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Similar agreements with the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan are being prepared for signing. The agreement with Turkmenia is also ready. The agreements with Azerbaijan and Armenia are being prepared.

The principles of cooperation are very simple: They are based on state independence of the republics, they are based on coordinating actions to defend their vitally important interests and the interests of the Union as a whole, as well as reinforcing international stability and security, and leaving to the interrepublican structures only those functions whose realization is transferred to their jurisdiction by the republics, and whose realization in today's real conditions is only possible on the interrepublican level. [end recording]

There were of course many questions to the speaker.

[Begin recording] [unidentified questioner] There have been reports in the press that our security services are transferring information to the leadership of the Baltic states on the KGB agents on the territory of the Baltic republics. Is it true, and if so, why and how is it done?

[Bakatin] This does not reflect the reality, and why such rumors are being circulated is not clear—to discredit this service?

[Unidentified questioner] Thank you. A second question: Did the KGB or the former KGB take part in the arrest on the territory of Russia of the head of Riga OMON, and if not was it aware of the alleged events?

[Bakatin] I personally am not aware of it, but to tell you categorically that no, it did not take part—maybe the local organs helped in some way; I simply cannot answer this question precisely. From the point of view of our central service we did not take part.

[Unidentified questioner] Do you believe that the problem of combatting organized crime is not the function of the security service? Dividing these functions between two departments—the Ministry of Internal Affairs and yours—does not improve this work. Maybe if they were put together and a new body for combating organized crime was created, or should these efforts be concentrated in one organ?

[Bakatin] What I think is that in general monopolies are dangerous everywhere, particularly in the struggle against organized crime. If we create a united OMON to combat organized crime, tomorrow it will be, excuse me, defeated by this organized crime. If we look at the experience of, say, the United States, it has seven structures engaged in combatting organized crime—seven of them. Of course, there is the matter of coordination, the matter of each one finding its own niche, its own place. In my opinion it is easier to do this than simply uniting all of them, considering that we are once again doing something useful.

I must admit frankly that at one time, when I was minister of internal affairs I was evidently confused and raised that question myself, that it was necessary to unite. So that I do not get blamed later, I now say openly that when I looked into things more deeply, and now having seen that we have in no way managed to halt the rise in organized crime, it would be irrational to exclude from this struggle the potential of the special services and, primarily, the former State Security Committee; it would be irrational for society.

If we were to infuse this small KGB into the large Internal Affairs Ministry, which in numbers is two orders of magnitude larger—our service would number only 40,000, while the Internal Affairs Ministry, as far as I remember, had 1.5 million when I worked there. Well, if we infuse these 40,000 into that 1.5 million they would become diluted, and we would not be able to find anything of them. Whereas this super-professional service working, primarily, in international channels, closely linked with the intelligence services and with counterintelligence could be very useful in this work, particularly regarding financial crimes, an area about which we still know practically nothing.

[Unidentified questioner] I do not quite understand: There are republican security services, but they are all financed from a single budget.

[Bakatin] This is continuing as usual this year. From next year they will not be. According to the draft law, only the Union—these interrepublican—structures, will be financed from the central budget and from 1 January each republic will finance its own committee and its own security service from its own budget. This has all been split up. This year we have 6.4 million [as heard] for all of them, and we are going on as usual. True, I should tell you that there is no money for December.

[Unidentified questioner] Vadim Viktorovich, at present much is being said in the West, and not just there but in our country too, about the problem of the reliability of the nuclear weapons, both the strategic, but particularly the operational-tactical ones. I think that it will be important for the deputies to learn who in our country bears responsibility for this matter. Do you have any grounds for fears on this count, and if you do, then what do you consider is necessary?

[Bakatin] The party responsible for this matter is the owner of the nuclear weapons—that is the Ministry of Defense, which should ensure the reliable safety of these nuclear weapons, first and foremost. On the other hand, the bodies of military counterintelligence should follow very closely the situation which is happening, first and foremost, in those military units which have some relation to nuclear weapons. I have to report that this gives rise to a certain apprehension on our part; this is happening not because of the processes which are happening in the Army alone, this is all that is happening around the Army, around these units. You know what the attitude to the Army is in our country today, and how difficult it is there, the moral-psychological, social and whatever situation you care to name is like. Therefore, there is special supervision and special control on our part over these units. [end recording]

Yakovlev Relieved as Head of Arbitration Court

LD2711131591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1230 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Nov (TASS)—The Soviet of the Republics of the USSR Supreme Soviet today passed a decision relieving Viniamin Yakovlev of his duties as chairman of the USSR Supreme Court of Arbitration. This was done in accordance with a proposal submitted to the Supreme Soviet by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev in connection with Viniamin Yakovlev's appointment as State Adviser to the head of state for legal policy.

The eminent Soviet lawyer explained that in his new post he will be engaged in dealing with all legal matters that come within the domain of the USSR president, including legal recommendations regarding the Union treaty, the market economy, and the sovereignty of the republics.

Union Council To Examine Union Treaty

LD2611173191 Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow November 26 TASS—Early next week the Council of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet will begin to consider the draft treaty on the Union of Sovereign States, Council of the Union Chairman Konstantin Lubenchenko said at today's plenary session of the chamber.

He informed deputies about Monday's [25 November] meeting of the USSR State Council, noting that it was "complex and intensive". Without going into details, Lubenchenko observed that in addition to the draft of the new Union treaty, legislators would analyse, jointly with representatives of the Interrepublican Economic Committee, a package of agreements to the Economic Community Treaty, which were prepared by the Interrepublican Economic Committee.

Lubenchenko emphasised that "analysing the situation in the country and elaborating proposals and measures to overcome the crisis was now central to the activity of the Council of the Union." He added this work would proceed in close interaction with the parliaments of sovereign states.

Political & Social

State Council Convened on Nagorno-Karabakh

Attendees Noted

OW2711132391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1140 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The routine session of the USSR State Council, which opened on Wednesday [27 November], is attended by Russia's President Boris Yeltsin, chairman of Belorussia's parliament Stanislav Shushkevich, Azerbaijan's President Ayaz Mutalibov, deputy chairman of Tajikistan's parliament Akbarsho Iskanderov, Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, and Turkmenia's President Saparmurad Niyazov. Those who will join the session later are Uzbekistan's Deputy Premier Bakhtiar Khavitov, Kazakhstan's Vice-President Erik Asanbayev and chairman of Kyrghyzstan's parliament Medetkan Sherimkulov.

Those who failed to join the session are the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Leonid Kravchuk and Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov, who explained his absence was due to the pressure of work. Kazakhstan's

President Nursultan Nazarbayev is making a tour of his republic and Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev is receiving delegations from abroad.

Those invited to the State Council session are the leader of the Interrepublican Security Service Vadim Bakatin, USSR Interior Minister Viktor Barannikov, USSR Defence Minister Evgeniy Shaposhnikov, and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The State Council is expected to consider, among other issues, the ways to settle the aggravating conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Text of Resolution

LD2711185891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1806 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Resolution of the USSR State Council of 27 November, 1991"—TASS headline]

[Text] [No dateline as received] On measures to stabilize the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] and in border rayons of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Republic of Armenia with the aim of creating conditions to stabilize the situation which has arisen around the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Azerbaijan Republic; to ensure the security of the citizens of Azerbaijan and Armenia living in the border rayons, and to prevent the development of a conflict which is fraught with even more severe consequences, both for these republics and for the whole country, the USSR State Council resolves:

1. To propose to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia that they annul all acts that change the legal status of the NKAO, as stated in the USSR Constitution; to reestablish constitutional order on the territory of NKAO.

2. To continue without any delay in accordance with the Zheleznovodsk Communique the talks between the plenipotentiary delegations of both republics with the participation of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] and Kazakhstan representatives.

To consider direct talks between the presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia essential in order to work out conditions for the total normalization of relations between the two sovereign states.

3. To recommend that the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan take measures in order to achieve a ceasefire, to withdraw all illegal armed formations from the conflict zone, and to ensure the safety of the population. To regulate air communications between the two republics, excluding unsanctioned flights. To establish a security zone, the regime for which and whose depth should be determined in the course of talks, in the sectors of the highest tension along the border between the republics. The USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and the USSR Defense Ministry should render assistance in tackling these tasks.

4. The USSR State Council addresses the people of Azerbaijan and the republic's Supreme Soviet with an appeal: Despite the acuteness of the situation and accumulated grievances, to urgently resume the work of the railway transport, gas pipeline, and other communications which are vitally important for Armenia and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan.

[Signed] The USSR State Council
Moscow, the Kremlin

Gorbachev on Results

LD2711211191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1934 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Interview with President Mikhail Gorbachev by a group of reporters following a State Council session on the Nagorno-Karabakh situation, in Moscow on 27 November—live or recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Mikhail Sergeyevich, honestly speaking, we have been waiting all day today for the results of today's State Council session. We understand that the problem is a complex one—what results are there?

[Gorbachev] You know, we have acted so many times in these four years—almost four years—of this grave conflict, that first of all I will just cover myself by saying that I hope this session of the State Council will go down as a turning point, as a very important event on the path toward a settlement of the grave conflict which we have not been able to handle, and which has resulted in grave misfortune, and not only for these two peoples, but also for the whole Union. Therefore, we decided to specially devote the session of the State Council to this question, and we invited the two presidents.

You are aware of the overall situation, the viewers are aware of it, our readers are aware of it, and I will not dwell on it in detail for now, but the results are these. First of all, the session was held in an atmosphere of immense responsibility and a great desire on the part of all the participating members of the State Council to halt an escalation, to stop the development, the dangerous development of this conflict. After all, it has approached, in fact, the point where a military situation—a war—could start.

Therefore, the State Council was fully directed toward together fitting the keys and to finding a way out of this grave situation, and, first and foremost, halting a further development of the conflict. We listened to—I would not even say information, but the understanding, the assessment of the two presidents. Then the representatives of those departments who have been drawn into or have long been linked with this conflict and have their own opinions and their own proposals had their say.

I must say that it turned out to be a very serious conversation. In my opinion everyone came to understand that if we do not reach agreement this time, and first and foremost at the level of the presidents who represent the two republics, then perhaps tomorrow, or in two or three days, everything will already be too late. This probably determined the discussion, the exchange of opinions, and the exchange of questions. A very respectful situation and atmosphere, very respectful and serious.

I want to note the positions of both presidents, of both the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, that is Comrades Mutalibov and Ter-Petrosyan. It seems to me that they also needed this State Council, and I think, therefore, that the two peoples of the two republics needed it, and so in the end this State Council took place. I think that we have stopped escalation of the conflict. We have once again confirmed the absolute lack of prospects for violent methods of solving such issues, which also involve people, and we have gone directly toward constitutional approaches, to ways strictly following constitutional principles and provisions. This has been fixed in the appropriate provisions.

At the same time, we have reached the point where this decision will serve as a basis for the continuation of talks. These talks were going on, in accordance with the Zheleznovodsk communique, and broke up in connection with that very difficult incident. This is how this process began: We expressed our definite opinions and made recommendations to the presidents, and they received this with understanding so that—apart from the talks process within the framework of the powers of the delegations and with the participation of representatives of Russia and Kazakhstan—the presidents of both republics should, without postponing it for a long time, now begin direct dialogue, direct talks between themselves, in order to create the conditions for the full normalization of relations between the two republics.

Finally there are also specific matters, and this is also contained in our resolution. We recommended to the presidents that they should also, urgently and without delay, arrange a cease-fire and use all the means at their disposal to this end. Moreover, both the ministries of internal affairs and defense—whose units are present there—will render them all possible assistance to insure people's safety, but the main demand is that work should immediately start on the process of withdrawal of all armed formations, illegal formations, from the zone of conflict.

I think that the right balance has been found here, not just from the point of view of the consideration given to the interests of the republics, but also a balance of approaches and in the means employed. Political methods must indeed be in the forefront. Our internal units, our internal troops, let alone the Army, units of which are stationed on the border there—small Army subunits though they may be—must not be turned into an instrument for solving this. Yes, they will provide support and help. All that is at people's disposal, but the main thing is that these processes should get going, and I think that this is very important.

This is how our State Council resolution begins. I have brought it with me [unfolds document]. We said that in order to create the conditions for a settlement of the situation that has arisen around the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast in the Republic of Azerbaijan, to insure the safety of the citizens of Azerbaijan and Armenia living in border regions, and to prevent a development of the conflict, which would risk even graver consequences both for the republics and the whole country, the State Council resolves as follows—and here is the first point: to propose to the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Armenia that they annul all acts that change the legal status of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, as stated in the USSR Constitution, to reestablish constitutional order on the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

There is the Armenian Supreme Soviet's decision which you are aware of, which is illegal and at variance with the constitution, when they declared the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast their territory and part of Armenia. And there is the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet's decision, in particular the decision adopted last night, to eliminate Nagorno-Karabakh, Nagorno-Karabakh's autonomy. Both must be annulled.

I hope that all these decisions, these proposals will be heard. Also, in the last clause of the State Council's decision we deemed it necessary, on the State Council's behalf, to address the people of Azerbaijan and the republic's supreme soviet with an appeal—despite all the things that are dividing people today and the acuteness of the situation, despite the fact that many mutual grievances have accumulated—to step over all that and to extend a fraternal hand to each other. In connection with this the appeal was to lift the blockade of railways, of supplies, of work, and of the gas pipeline and other lines of communication which insure people's life.

Knowing both peoples, I am confident that they will appreciate, that the people of Azerbaijan will do this, and I think Armenia will appreciate this, too. After all, there are no insurmountable problems between these peoples. I think that eventually we are finding a key so that through implementing the things we have agreed upon, one could finally attain complete control of the situation. Of course, there is a lot of time and problems ahead but it is simply impossible—and I think all sides have realized this—to keep both the republics and the whole country in such a state any longer, impossible.

So, we have seen once again that the Council is a body which is very much needed, very much needed. I can hardly imagine another place where we could attain such understanding. We have sat for several hours; a definite climate in mutual relations has already taken shape between State Council members. This allows us to discuss the most acute and sore issues calmly, responsibly, and in the spirit of understanding that the country is behind us.

[Unidentified reporter] Mikhail Sergeyevich, this is not the first political attempt to use political methods to resolve this problem. That means that the forces of confrontation are very, very powerful, and there are detachments under their control. Are you, members of the State Council, sure that political methods will be able to triumph over these forces.

[Gorbachev] I think the meaning of this just and well founded decision, which has come as a result of the very serious discussion, lies in the fact that it counts on political methods, of course. At the same time, as I have already told you, the problems of cease-fire and of the withdrawal or the disbandment of these illegal armed formations must be resolved not only on the basis of interaction and talks between the sides but also with the aid of organs of power. For there will be some people on whom no doubt the plain evidence of common sense—the fact that people are suffering and that neither the republics nor the two peoples nor the country, as a whole, can be allowed to go on like this—has no effect. It is just that there are certain forces and it is hard to say, you know, what they are guided by. It is not even to do with the fact that they act in groups. It is simply the matter of irresponsibility and madness. I think a law must be enforced here—and that was discussed too—but we hope that political methods and the desire on the part of the sides to meet each other half way are the main conditions for finding a way out of the situation in the future.

I must say I am very appreciative of the mature and serious position taken today by the two presidents of these republics. You may have noticed that they have recently begun to communicate with each other and to actively discuss things. They have been exchanging views, and I think that what took place at the State Council sitting will strengthen and give them support too. These people must be given support. After all, they are trying to compromise in the interests of the people and are prepared to stake their prestige and everything, while relying on our support, so as to resolve this situation.

[Unidentified reporter] My specific question is this: How is the issue of the security zone being tackled?

[Gorbachev] That has been mentioned here too, and the presidents, with the participation of the members of the State Council, have registered the following formula: As a result of talks, security zones should be set up in the most dangerous areas of tension, where measures should be taken by both sides, in conjunction with the Interior Ministry, to bring the situation in those particular areas under control.

In other words, we stuck to the decision that this is up to the republics—they have the breadth, the scope, or the depth—when and in what sectors, let them solve it together. First and foremost, this must be done in those areas where people are being killed, where people are abandoning their homes and leaving, where people are being killed. That is what is set down here. And yet the main role in the future must be played by the republics, and it is very important that they all agree upon this themselves. But we have agreed that this goodwill mission on the part of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan should continue, despite the feeling in connection with this latest incident.

We all realize that if all of us do not do everything that the situation simply dictates we must do, then events may develop which will simply show that we let the moment go, we let the moment go, and we may have to pay very dearly for doing so. Work can begin within the framework of the process which was started on the basis of the Zheleznovodsk communique. This is very important. After all, there were meetings and conversations there, people first found it difficult, and now they have started to conduct a dialogue and listen to one another and reach an understanding. This is very important, that they can settle things there, but the State Council will not stand aside, and if necessary we will again lend our strength and our weight to it.

I think that is about it. I do not want to make any guesses; I simply want to express my deep conviction that the foundation which has been laid, the stimulus which has been given in this State Council must be used by everyone to the maximum in order to revert to normal channels of behavior.

Mutalibov, Ter-Petrosyan Comment

LD2711194191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Andrey Grachev, USSR presidential press secretary, said in an interview with INTERFAX that the main import of today's decision by the USSR State Council on measures to stabilize the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the border areas of Azerbaijan and Armenia is that both sides have come to the same conclusion—the need to continue the talks process. At the basis of the decision was a draft agreement, which was dictated in the interval between the sessions of the State Council by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. The State Council session began with speeches by the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Despite each side putting forward its own view of the conflict, both presidents stressed that it is necessary to seek a way out of this conflict. Grachev stressed that both presidents showed understanding of the responsibility resting on them.

In an interview to INTERFAX after the end of the State Council's session, Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov stressed that the most important thing is that the talks process will be continued. He noted with satisfaction that his point of view coincides with the point of view of the Armenian President, Ter-Petrosyan, namely that there is no alternative to talks. Ayaz Mutalibov also noted that despite the complicated situation there exist points in common which will in the end allow the two republics to find a way out of the situation which has arisen.

Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan expressed satisfaction with the USSR State Council's decision, noting that it stresses the need to reestablish constitutional order in Nagorno-Karabakh, and to repeal all unconstitutional decisions adopted on Karabakh. He called this good insurance for the talks to continue. Ter-Petrosyan also stated that he does not exclude the possibility that the talks will be complicated, and that there will be attempts to disrupt them. [passage omitted]

Ter-Petrosyan Assesses Situation

LD2711231891 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In the Kremlin today the State Council ruled that Armenia and Azerbaijan must continue their talks. What was proposed is a cease-fire, the withdrawal of militants from the zone involved in the conflict, and the setting up of a security zone between the hostile sides. The State Council also calls for the economic blockade to cease and for the reinstatement of the Karabakh autonomy revoked by the Azeri parliament. All these proposals are obvious and logical, but no one wants to heed them. The only real measure is to introduce troops to hold the hostile sides in check. In that case, effectively, the whole weight of resolving the conflict will be put upon the shoulders of soldiers and officers most of whom are Russian.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, how do you assess the current situation in the republic?

[Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of Armenia] You know, the situation deteriorated following the helicopter incident, and the latest decisions by the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan on the abolition of the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomy made the situation worse to the extreme. Today, the State Council got together to discuss this situation and to prevent any further escalation in the events. The State Council has adopted a decision, and this decision was adopted in the spirit of the Zheleznovodsk communique, and fully accords with it. The main thing is that it clearly maps out the status of Nagorno-Karabakh in accordance with the USSR Constitution. I am convinced that we can find a mutually acceptable decision on this question, which will not be final perhaps, but which will satisfy both sides at least for the time being. The main thing is to insure safety for the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. [end recording]

Mutalibov Calls for Direct Contact

OW2811134691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The current contacts between the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan stimulate the endeavours to ease tensions in bilateral relations and resume the process of talks suspended in the wake of the November 20 helicopter crash in Nagorny Karabakh, Azerbaijan's President Ayaz Mutalibov told reporters on Wednesday [27 November] when the USSR State Council had concluded its session.

According to the leader of Azerbaijan, there is no alternative to settling the conflict in Karabakh by means of a peaceful political dialogue.

Having qualified the developments in and around Nagorno-Karabakh as "undeclared war in the territory of Azerbaijan", he said that the time for resuming talks has not been fixed yet, but there is a need for resolving the situation as soon as possible.

The President called for direct contacts between the two sides without mediators. "Azerbaijan and Armenia should cover this long and tortuous road together", said A. Mutalibov. He conceded that the Azeri parliament's decision to abolish Nagorno Karabakh's status of Autonomous Region is not conducive to improving the political climate or narrowing differences between the conflicting sides.

With reference to the domestic situation in Azerbaijan A. Mutalibov said that he sees no need for imposing a state of emergency in his republic.

Azerbaijan's President answered with restraint the question relating to investigations into the November 20 helicopter crash in which more than 20 people died. He is waiting for official results of investigations conducted by competent Azeri authorities with assistance from USSR agencies, he said. According to Azeri officials, the "black box" of the ill-fated helicopter is now in the hands of Nagorno Karabakh's military prosecution.

At the press conference in question IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent had an opportunity to get acquainted with an unofficial translation of the message sent to Azerbaijan's authorities by the Turkish prime minister Suleyman Demirel. The message was handed to A. Mutalibov on Wednesday [27 November]. It expresses deep concern and anxiety over tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia as a result of which Azeri brothers died.

Under the circumstances, the Turkish prime minister wrote, "it would be sensible to avoid taking decisions or actions under influence of provocations" which is fraught with "new calamities".

Buffer Zone Discussed

OW2811135091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan told newsmen after Wednesday's [27 November] State Council session that it had discussed the USSR president's proposal to create a 10-kilometer buffer zone between the two republics. According to him, State Council members decided to create buffer zones at the most disquieting sectors of the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and reinforce the local posts of USSR interior ministry troops.

Azeri Demonstration Staged

OW2811163991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1532 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [28 November], spokesmen for ethnic Azeris living in Moscow staged a demonstration in front of Russia's White House with the following slogans: "Hands off independent Azerbaijan!", "No more aggressions against sovereign Azerbaijan!", "Caucasus is no proving range for Soviet aggression!", "Helicopter crash in Karabakh was a provocation against Azerbaijan's independence", and the like.

There are plans to stage a picket with similar slogans in front of the White House on Friday [29 November]. The picketers intend to hand to a representative of Russia's leadership a paper with the demand that interference in Azerbaijan's internal affairs and in relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia be stopped, and that all troops be withdrawn from Azerbaijan and from Nagorno-Karabakh.

Russian officials took part as observers in negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia with a view to settling the conflict between the two republics.

Talks 'Highly Fruitful'

PM2911112091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Nov 91 p 2

[Interview with F. Mamikonyan, permanent representative of the Armenian Council of Ministers in Moscow, by V. Andreyev, in Moscow on 27 November— under the general heading "Reducing the Heat of Passions"]

[Text] As is known, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan did not hold a press conference after the [27 November] State Council session. In view of the importance of covering all views of the events in Moscow, I contacted F. Mamikonyan, permanent representative of the Armenian Council of Ministers in Moscow.

[Andreyev] Feliks Oganesovich, how does the Armenian side assess the talks that took place?

[Mamikonyan] Highly fruitful. We believe that this will make it possible to reduce the heat of passions that have arisen in Azerbaijan since the deaths in the helicopter. And in our view this heat was in part deliberately whipped up. Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov's position on this question is constructive.

[Andreyev] Is there now confidence that the blockade of Armenia will end?

[Mamikonyan] Yes, you could say that. Although there will be many obstacles in the path of the actual implementation of the accords. In particular, the mechanism for removing the "gas blockade" has not yet been devised.

[Andreyev] The question of the abolition of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast was raised at the State Council...

[Mamikonyan] Yes, and this act was deemed unlawful. But I do not want to get involved in arguments about the legality of such acts. There are many questions here, including the question of the proclamation of Azerbaijan's secession from the Union, and much else. I would like to hope that the Zheleznovodsk and Moscow agreements will also not be forgotten. I would very much like to hope...

Analysts See 'Gleam of Hope'

LD2811160691 Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS world service analyst Vladimor Kikilo]

[Excerpts] Moscow November 28 TASS—The consent of Azerbaijani and Armenian leaders to resume within one week talks on the stabilisation of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and in the border strip between the two transcaucasian republics, involved in a bloody interethnic conflict, is regarded as a "gleam of hope" by local analysts. Presidents Ayaz Mutalibov of Azerbaijan, Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia and Mikhail Gorbachev have attached their signatures yesterday to a corresponding resolution of the USSR State Council.

The Council recommended both republics to resume talks without further ado with the participation of representatives from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, and to hold direct negotiations between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia in order to draw up terms for the complete normalisation of relations between the two sovereign states.

The 4-year-long confrontation between Yerevan and Baku over Nagorno-Karabah, a region predominantly populated by Armenians, but administratively belonging to Azerbaijan, came to a head on November 20th, when a helicopter accident occurred in the airspace over it. It claimed 22 human lives. The victims included several high- ranking Azerbaijanian officials. The accident placed the two republics on the brink of full-scale war. As it is, the clashes there have already taken a toll of almost a thousand human lives. The Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet annulled the autonomous status of Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday [26 November] and renamed its capital of Stepanakert into Khankendi, the town's ancient name. [passage omitted]

According to reports from Stepanakert, yesterday's session of the Council of People's Deputies of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has decided to hold a referendum on its territory this December in order to determine the population's view on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh. The session's resolution says that only laws of the USSR will henceforth be in force on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Gorbachev Comments on Need To Maintain Union

LD2811155191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Mineyev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Nov (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev regards the settlement of the issue of the Union treaty as the main priority in the life of the country at the current moment. All the present problems in the economic and social spheres will assume even more acute form without a union of sovereign states. He stated this today [28 November] when he received journalists from the NARODNAYA GAZETA newspaper (Belarus [Belorussia]) and TASS.

Mikhail Gorbachev said that he does not believe promises that the rights of ethnic minorities will be guaranteed outside the Union. He cited as an example the current problems of the nonindigenous population in the Baltic states. The president stressed the special importance of this issue for our country in view of the fact that 75 million people live outside the borders of their own republics.

Commenting on the results of the meeting of republican leaders in Novo-Ogarevo, the head of the Soviet state expressed regret that his colleagues in the State Council are "very sensitive to pressure from political currents." This is "a reaction to history," which one can understand, he believes. But he spoke resolutely against turning such sentiments into the severance of political ties: "What we have achieved, we have achieved as one large country."

However, Mikhail Gorbachev considers that the press has overdramatized the results of the Novo-Ogarevo meeting and wrongly assessed them as a "failure" of the attempts to conclude a Union treaty. He stressed that all the participants in the meeting appended their signatures to the resolution and this, in his opinion, is equivalent to the virtual initialling of the Union treaty. He stated that the existence of the Union is an objective necessity which does not prevent the realization of the new role of the republics.

The USSR president stated his support for the Russian leadership's decision to carry out economic reforms. At the same time, he considers that Russia's moves along this path should be coordinated with the other republics. This coordination was discussed during the closed meeting of the State Council. The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic president, Mikhail Gorbachev said, has promised to act "together with the republics."

Mikhail Gorbachev remains a resolute opponent of the use of force in resolving interethnic conflicts. In the course of any military operations, experience has shown, it is mainly the peaceful population which suffers. Afghanistan and Yugoslavia are examples of this. Commenting on the State Council meeting on 27 November, which discussed the conflict around Nagorno- Karabakh, he stated that the Karabakh crisis must be overcome by constitutional means.

Mikhail Gorbachev once again confirmed that the country's nuclear forces are under reliable control and the mechanism of this control was set out by the agreement of the republics after the August putsch.

Three Republics Intend To Create Armed Forces

OW2811191291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia intend to create their Armed Forces, delegates of these republics announced on Thursday [28 November] in the Kremlin, at a conference of representatives of the republics' parliamentary defence committees, and of the corresponding republican ministries. The conference involves 11 republics (except Azerbaijan) and will last for two days. It is considering various aspects of the military reform and military spending.

Chairman of the USSR parliament's Defence and Security Committee, Mr. Vladimir Stadnik, told IF [INTERFAX] that the agenda also includes the appointment of members of the Soviet President's Committee for Military Reform, led by General Konstantin Kobets, from among representatives of the republics.

Mr. Stadnik also said that on Friday [29 November] the participants in the conference would be acquainted with the Treaty on Collective Security, drafted by his committee. "If such a treaty were concluded, it could become part of the political treaty and the nucleus of stability in the Union," he said.

The draft treaty on collective security provides for the creation of a single security area, for the coordination of the member- states' foreign policies and for the formation of united Armed Forces under the command of the USSR president or of a top-ranking official of the member-states' other collective body.

According to this document, drafted in conjunction with experts of the KGB, and of the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute of the U.S. and Canada, nuclear weapons will be put under unified control, while a special body will be in charge of a unified "nuclear policy."

In case a state decides to secede, the nuclear weapons will be dismantled and removed from its territory.

The draft treaty recognizes the current borders between the member-states and qualifies their unilateral redrafting as illegitimate. It also provides for setting up a permanent collective-security committee which is expected to coordinate the efforts of the allied defence ministry, border-guard committee, Central Intelligence Service, Interstate Counterintelligence Service and Interstate Criminal Service.

The permanent collective-security committee is expected to take decisions on the basis of consensus. Membership will be permanent and associated.

The member-states are expected to abstain from creating military formations whose goal is to inflict damage on other member-states.

Silayev Returns With EC Credit Guarantees

LD2711214991 Moscow TASS in English 2117 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Viktor Runov]

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—A delegation from the Interrepublican Economic Committee returned to Moscow this evening after a two-day stay in Brussels with the European Communities' guarantees on 500 million ECU [European Currency Unit] credits, Committee Chairman Ivan Silayev told correspondents upon his arrival.

Silayev said they had preliminary negotiations on another credit of the European Communities—this time it will be 1,250 million ECU to also be used for food purchases.

The sides reached an agreement on 900 million ECU credits to fulfil a large-scale food program in the Soviet Union. This primarily concerns the deliveries of modern technologies for processing and storage of agricultural products.

In the words of Ivan Silayev, the food will begin to come to the Soviet late next December. He believes it very important to rationally use this aid, which enables the government successfully carry out risky measures on price liberalization.

Brussels—Up till now the Soviet Union has been one of the most reliable payers on credits. As for the current difficulties provoked by a recession in the economy, they are temporary and will be overcome, Silayev said today before his departure from Brussels.

The country has enough resources to pay the foreign debt, Silayev said. These are natural resources, the high scientific and technical potential, and a rather high level of development of the defence industries, which are now being conversed.

In addition, other states, primarily the developing ones, owe the Soviet Union 50 per cent more than it does.

Silayev stressed the importance of using the European Communities' experience, the organisational structure of whose ruling bodies was taken as a basis during the Interstate Economic Committee's formation.

Meetings in Brussels confirmed we have done right, since we will have to pass the same stages and overcome the same barriers, the community faced during its establishment, the Committee head said.

The main weapon of its ruling bodies is patience, the ability of find compromises and reach concord. We should learn this art, Silayev said.

Primakov Comments on 'Secret Weapons Shipments'

LD2711180791 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—Sovereign republics of the former Union have all grounds to create the structures they want, including intelligence ones, director of the Soviet Central Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov told a news conference here today.

"We intend to cooperate, coordinate our activities and have brotherly relations with all similar services," said Primakov.

The director refuted reports on the alleged agreement to pass lists of Soviet agents, who have functioned in some states, including former socialist ones. "We will give such lists to no one," Primakov noted.

"We are against any secret weapon shipments, or any secret sales of arms, especially to the regions where the situation is destabilized, fraught with an explosion, or where the explosion has already happened and bloodshed is going on.

"If the Intelligence Service has information on cases of such deliveries in our republics, it will inform Soviet law enforcement bodies," Primakov commented on a recent statement of Russian Vice- President Aleksandr Rutskoy on Chechens' possession of Israeli Uzi automatic rifles.

Speaking on the situation in another hot bed—Nagorno-Karabakh—Primakov noted he is extremely concerned over the recent developments between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and added "if the intelligence has any possibilities to contribute to the stabilization there, we will do it".

Primakov on New Role of Intelligence Service

LD2811104491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1613 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Nikishov and Sergey Petukhov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Nov (TASS)—The absence of permanent enemies and permanent allies and the presence of a permanent state and national interest—this is the philosophy of intelligence at the present time, Yevgeniy Primakov, director of the Central Intelligence Service, stated at a news conference today at the USSR Ministry of External Relations.

In the past, intelligence held a special place in the system of confrontation between the USSR and the United States, between the two military and political alliances that opposed each other, he said. Fierce confrontation and opposition determined the functions of intelligence. Now, under conditions of ending the cold war, intelligence is becoming part of a new system of international relations. Primarily, one should identify where national interests coincide, which is a fairly wide field, the intelligence chief stressed. This means the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction, tracking critical technologies, secret arms sales operations, international terrorism, the drugs trade, and others.

Naturally, there will be situations where our interests do not coincide, Yevgeniy Primakov observed. But at the same time, he said, our service will operate using civilized methods and we hope that our partners facing us in other countries will also operate by similar methods. Talking about cadre policy he observed that the work of the intelligence service, like the Armed Forces, must be built upon the principles of reasonable sufficiency.

Answering journalists' questions, Yevgeniy Primakov expressed himself in favor of working out measures to prevent the leakage from the USSR of nuclear and other types of "high technology" which could be used in third countries for the production of weapons of mass destruction. He opposed any regulating mechanism that would make it difficult for nuclear or other scientists working in the "high technology" field to leave the USSR. "Some other ways and means have to be found to prevent the leak of such critical technologies especially to countries which have arrogant regimes or individual groups of people who could use them to produce weapons of mass destruction," Yevgeniy Primakov stressed.

The intelligence chief described as a "new" element in ties between the USSR and the United States the unofficial talks that took place recently between representatives from the two countries on the most important issues of international policy and bilateral relations. He observed that for the first time the head of intelligence had taken part in such negotiations.

Yevgeniy Primakov stated that the republics which formerly belonged to the USSR "have complete grounds for setting up the structures that they want to set up, including intelligence structures." He said that the Central Intelligence Service intends to cooperate with them and coordinate its activity. The director of the Central Intelligence Service is also in favor of having "correct" relations and of coordinating actions with the Main Intelligence Directorate of the USSR Defence Ministry General Staff.

Replying to a question about the possible implication of the KGB in the attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II, Yevgeniy Primakov said that Soviet intelligence is not involved in any way in that case. "The only thing in which our involvement has been seen is in the selection of the lawyer for Antonov, the Bulgarian citizen who was arrested in connection with this case but subsequently released," the director of the Central Intelligence Service said.

Vladislavlev Offered Foreign Ministry Position

OW2811140491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent, on Wednesday [27 November] the post of USSR deputy minister for external relations in the rank of minister of state for foreign economic ties was offered to Aleksander Vladislavlev. The issue of his appointment had been coordinated with Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze.

55-year-old Aleksandr Vladislavlev is USSR people's deputy and chairman of the council for entrepreneurship under the USSR President. Besides, he holds the posts of vice-president and executive director of the Scientific and Industrial League. A number of progressive draft bills designed to ensure transition to free market in the USSR were worked out with his direct participation.

The official announcement as to A. Vladislavlev's appointment as deputy minister for external relations is expected in the next few days.

According to our knowledge, A. Vladislavlev will retain his post of chairman of the Council for Entrepreneurship under the USSR president.

Churkin Interviewed on Reforms, Foreign Policy

LD2811215891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1622 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Studio interview with Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Ministry of External Affairs Information Directorate, by program presenters Aleksandr Vasilyev and Dmitriy Yakushkin on 28 November; from the "Accent" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Yakushkin] Vitaliy Churkin, you head the Union Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Directorate. To some degree you can also be called the foreign minister's voice, because it is you who conducts the regular briefings for Soviet and foreign journalists. But today you are not in the studio as an official representative of the Foreign Ministry but as a diplomat whom we have asked to put forward his own personal viewpoint. What do you think, how long will the Union Foreign Ministry continue in existence?

[Churkin] I hope that it will be in existence for a long time yet, since it is one of the main structures which ensures the foreign policy interests of our state.

[Vasilyev] As far as I know the USSR Foreign Ministry is to be cut by at least a third. Vitaliy Ivanovich, if you are made redundant where will you go to work?

[Churkin] On television, if they will have me. [laughter] Well, your information is absolutely correct. We intend to reduce from around 3,500 to between 2,500 and 2,700 people.

[Yakushkin] Let us say you go to the Russian Foreign Ministry. What do you think—does a diplomat need any particular diplomatic qualities in order to work in the Russian Foreign Ministry?

[Vasilyev] Yes, what is necessary in order to be a true Russian? [Rossiyan, inhabitant of Russia, not Russkiy—of Russian nationality]

[Churkin] You know, I myself am a Vladimir man. It is harder to be more Russian than I am. Therefore I think that in principle serving the foreign policy interests of Russia is a calling, maybe the dream of any Russian diplomat. But frankly speaking I am not actually planning this at the moment.

[Vasilyev] Vitaliy Ivanovich, in your impartial view, can Russian diplomacy now take on the whole load which Union diplomacy has carried for many years?

[Churkin] I think that Russia, independently let's say—imagine the situation when there is no Union and all the former union republics have become completely independent states—then Russia would not be able I think in the first place to ensure the succesful conducting of democratic reforms, either on its own territory or, more importantly, around itself. Russia would be in a less advantageous foreign environment, because it would have to pay too much attention to relations with the former Union republics; relations with other countries which have better prospects, initially perhaps, would have to take second place. Apart from that I think that in the end we Russians have to recognize the fact that without the preservation of the Union, in one form or another, in a new form, preserving the unity of Russia itself is impossible. We must look the truth in the eye and see that those disintegratory processes which concern us all in Russia itself are indissoluby linked to those disintegratory processes which we have observed in the Union itself.

[Yakushkin] It is possible to agree with you theoretically. But the impression arises, when you talk about the necessity of a single foreign policy mechansim, that nevertheless this belongs to the sphere of wishful thinking, while the tendencies just now are completely different. Maybe this will happen at some level. Such a mechanism will be worked out. But at the moment many things indicate that in the near future this should not be expected. It is necessary, nevertheless, to take account of reality.

[Churkin] You are right that is necessary to take account of reality, but you know, just as in Greek tragedy, so the specialists say, reality becomes what you talk about all the time, or what you think about all the time. If we constantly repeat—there won't be a union, there won't be a union—then maybe that's how it will turn out.

[Vasilyev] Vitaliy Ivanovich, let's examine this situaton on the basis of a specific example, on the example of the Near East. Recently we established diplomatic relations with Israel, and participated in the Madrid Near East Conference as cosponsor. However, at the same time, another conference took place in Tehran, an Islamic conference which condemned what was happening in Madrid. I don't know if you know, but representatives of our Central Asian republics participated at the Tehran conference. Do you consider that in such a situation it is possible to talk about an all-Union foreign policy in the Near East?

[Churkin] You know, I think that there are no insurmountable contradictions here. It really is possible to talk about an all-Union foreign policy, although I want to stress that from now on we will have to consult considerably more with the republics and discover their viewpoint when determining policy for the main directions of foreign policy activities. As regards the Near East, then it seems to me that, in particular, the character of relations with the Near East region which we have now come to as a matter of fact may correspond to the interests of all the republics and people of the most varied views, and the most varied ways of thinking, of religious membership, and so on. [passage omitted: interview interrupted by short film of interview by Yakushkin in Russian with Carol Bogart, NEWSWEEK correspondent, who says it is very interesting for foreign corespondents to be posted to Moscow; she sees the conflict between the Russian and Union FMs as a struggle for power]

[Vasilyev] Some observers consider that at the moment in the Union and Russian Foreign Ministries it is not a struggle of opinion which is going on but an elementary struggle for power. What is your opinion?

[Churkin] I think that maybe to some degree there is some of both. I think that now this should end, and that we as good officials—and even ministers of foreign affairs when it comes down to it are only officials, although high ranking and subordinate only to the will of the highest state leadership—our task is not to continue conducting any quarrels which perhaps were conducted previously, but to carry out the decisions already made by the political leadership. There has been and is no conflict, particularly now when the fundamental issues of the organization of our Union and republican diplomatic services have been decided by the State Council. I would say, not only of journalists, but I have many times seen the reactions of foreign representatives; at first they were very confused, they did not know what was going on, but I think that the decision which has now been made will put the dots on the i's, and relations will develop at two levels, at Union and republican level. Moreover, the republican level will become considerably more active and fuller than before. [passage omitted: short film of interview with Bogart who says foreigners arriving in Moscow are somewhat confused by the situation]

[Churkin] The explanations which we are giving just now about how our foreign policy will be made will I think satisfy many people. Most importantly they calm those concerns which have been expressed many times before, and which in fact have not yet been completely removed, since as yet there is no political treaty.

[Yakushin] Thank you Vitaliy Ivanovich.

Reaction to Shevardnadze Statement Reported

PM2711185191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Nov 91 Union Edition p 6

[Report by M. Yusin: "E. Shevardnadze's Interview Has Rocked the World Exchanges, Although by Our Standards He Said Nothing Special"]

[Text] The interview given by Eduard Shevardnadze, Union minister of foreign relations, to the Japanese KYODO agency and published on Wednesday [27 November] evoked unexpected repercussions abroad and a stormy reaction on the world's exchanges.

The minister told Japanese journalists that he does not rule out the possibility of another conservative coup in the Soviet Union. "Reactionary forces intent on reviving the totalitarian regime have survived the August putsch, and the danger persists of a spontaneous outbreak of unrest and a new coup attempt," he said. According to the minister, "instability in the Soviet Union poses a bigger threat to the world than nuclear weapons and ecological problems."

Shevardnadze's fame as an author of infallible political forecasts, acquired following his December speech at the Congress of People's Deputies, evoked immeasurably greater repercussions than probably even the minister himself had expected. The European exchanges reacted instantaneously. As is always the case at a time of major international crises and instability, the dollar rate rose sharply against all European currencies and the Japanese yen. Exchange rates fell in London, Paris, and Frankfurt. Experts quoted by the REUTER agency are convinced that Shevardnadze's remarks are the main cause.

This reaction has caused a certain amount of embarrassment at the Ministry of Foreign Relations. At a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists on Wednesday [27 November] night Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Information Department, suggested that the minister's words had been inadequately conveyed. At the time Churkin was unable to be more specific: Shevardnadze was attending the State Council session at Novo-Ogarevo.

On the minister's return, Churkin obtained an explanation from him. "The gist of the concern expressed by Shevardnadze is that, as a result of the deteriorating economic situation in the country, spontaneous unrest could break out, jeopardizing the democratic process. The minister said nothing about the possibility of a repetition of a putsch on the lines of the August scenario," Churkin told IZVESTIYA on Thursday [28 November] morning.

As you can see, the foreign relations minister's words contain nothing sensational. Ivan Silayev, chairman of the Interstate Economic Committee, (speaking in Brussels) and Andrey Kozyrev, Russia's foreign minister, (speaking in Washington) expressed themselves along much the same lines on the same day in interviews to foreign journalists. So that the main sensation of the day, judging by appearances, was not Eduard Shevardnadze's interview to the Japanese news agency, but the exchanges' panicky reaction to it, which demonstrates how alarmed the world is at the unpredictable development of the situaton in the former USSR.

No Real Progress on Economic Treaty Documents

PM2711181591 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by S. Bobrovskiy: "G. Yavlinskiy in Role of Health Ministry. He Warns"]

[Text] A working group (more than 200 experts, including plenipotentiary representatives of 12 republics) has finished ahead of schedule the elaboration of the draft agreements provided for in the Economic Community Treaty. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy reported this at a meeting with journalists.

The package of documents includes 24 agreements. Total accord has been reached on at least eight of them. Nevertheless, all the documents have so far been coordinated only at the level of experts.

The draft has been distributed to the republics, and as long ago as 14 November an appeal was sent to heads of state, asking them to examine the options and express their opinion. There has not yet been any response. A question arises in this connection: Having signed the Economic Community Treaty, maybe the sovereign states lost interest in it? For, without a specific mechanism for realizing it, the treaty remains a bare declaration.

Yavlinskiy: This really is a most important and alarming question. Unfortunately, people do take positions like this: "But why, in fact, must we fulfill all this?!" And this argument is hardly convincing: "Because you have already agreed to do so."

And yet, in actual fact, paradoxical though this might sound, the Economic Community Treaty actually gives the republics sovereignty for the first time. Because it makes it possible to consciously reach agreement on the main spheres of conduct and to formulate policies in respect of each other. I emphasize that the treaty is designed for a three-year period; its chief purpose is to arrive in the most secure and civilized form at the degree of independence which the republics consider necessary.

Finally, it must not be forgotten that the grand economic policy and macroeconomic problems are only a part of all problems. But there are still very acute questions which require an answer in any case. And these are reflected in the agreements.

For example, the agreement on mutual commitments in the sphere of pension provision and social insurance. This is a big and complex document. And it was made in a very complex way. If it is not signed this year, then it will not be clear on 1 January whether an old woman who worked all her life in another republic will get her pension. If the agreement on migration is not signed, it is not clear whether Russia will recognize the third category of turner who has moved from the Ukraine. There are masses of such questions. The experts did their part of the work and removed all the objections with regard to the agreements on property disputes, pensions, regional development programs (Chernobyl, the Aral Sea...), patents, the customs union, migration, interstate scientific and technical policy, and actions to prevent emergency situations.

The remaining agreements have also been coordinated. And although there are still different viewpoints on certain points, all the work has shown that in principle there is nothing in the treaty on which it is impossible to reach agreement.

The package of documents prepared by the working group ends with these words: "In our opinion, as we have already reported to the heads of state, it is critically important that the treaty come into force as early as this year. If this cannot be achieved, then the adverse consequences for the economy and the population will be exceptionally serious."

Barannikov Comments on Internal Ministry Reforms

924B0105A Moscow TRUD in Russian
20 Nov 91 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Minister of Internal Affairs V.P. Barannikov by A. Grigoryev and G. Anatolyev; place and date not given: "We Are Operating Under Extreme Conditions"]

[Text] **It was with these words that our meeting at TRUD with USSR Minister of Internal Affairs V.P. Barannikov began.**

It can be no other way—the colonel general clarified his idea. For it is extreme situations that generate the reforms themselves. And the Ministry of Internal Affairs is no exception here.

[Barannikov] The events during the days of the putsch forced us to take a deeper look at all the processes taking place in the country. From both a political and a professional standpoint. They forced us to radically change our views on the position of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs in the system of power structures, to reject rapidly and resolutely the forms of government that had become outdated and had outlived their usefulness, and at the same time reject the "feed bags" for the generals as well. And this reforming of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will take place in a most difficult operational situation.

[TRUD] Viktor Pavlovich, excuse me, but we can judge the phenomenon better if we have our hands on real statistics...

[Barannikov] I agree. And I am prepared to give you a number of figures from memory. During the past year and a half alone we have unmasked 2,235 organized crime groups who have committed more than 10,000 especially grave crimes. Corruption is on the rise. And signs that it is crossing regional boundaries are becoming increasingly clear. Incidentally, criminals in general, unlike politicians, recognize neither the borders between the republics nor those with other countries. Our domestic mafia is already firmly entrenched at the international level.

[TRUD] Frankly, you have not added to our optimism. What will the reform consist of?

[Barannikov] At the very basis of the reform is relieving the republic Internal Affairs Ministries of the burden of the need to be overly cautious and increasing their independence and responsibility. The center of gravity will shift to coordination, interaction, analysis, prognostication, reporting, generalization of experience, and rendering of consultative-methodological and practical assistance to the republic ministries. I emphasize especially: assistance. Professionals and leaders of republic Internal Affairs Ministries are of the same opinion. We have reached mutual understanding with them regarding questions we have in common, particularly the fact that the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs should operate within limits that are strictly coordinated with the republics. This position of the leaders of the republic and Union ministries was recorded in a protocol signed by all of them on 24 October.

[TRUD] What is the focus of the activity of the Union Ministry of Internal Affairs?

[Barannikov] First: coordination of the fight against serious and especially serious offenses of an interrepublic and interethnic nature, and investigation and interrogation of criminals. Criminal militia and an investigation committee are being created to perform these coordination tasks.

Here are a couple of facts corroborating the need for them. In 40 percent of the cases when interregional crimes are investigated, not all of the criminal connections of the accused are established. Every fifth crime on rail transportation is committed hundreds and thousands of kilometers away from the place where it was discovered. More than half of the narcotics are shipped outside the regions where they are produced. In the interests of providing for effective search for criminals, the necessary data files that are of mutual interest are being kept and in the future will be augmented and used by the republic internal affairs ministries.

Second: ensuring public safety. More and more frequently in recent times it has been necessary to perform such tasks as rendering assistance to the republics in emergency situations. Above all with large-scale technological disasters, earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters.

It is clear that the capabilities of the regional organs to normalize situations in "hot spots" are grossly inadequate. Therefore, in order to provide for coordination of the efforts of the republics for reacting promptly to these crisis phenomena and to render practical assistance, the public safety militia of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs is being created.

Third: An important role in the system of ensuring public safety belongs to the internal forces, and the main purpose of reforming them is to bring their structural configuration and administrative system into line with the state-political realities that have developed. The sovereign republics today bear full responsibility for internal security on their territories, and therefore one can understand their desire to have the means and forces necessary for this, right down to their own internal forces formations. There is now a need to transfer individual units to the jurisdiction of the republics, but this should be done without causing harm to the common interests of providing for law and order while observing all the social guarantees with respect to military servicemen. And one cannot but agree with the position of Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic President B.N. Yeltsin concerning the inadmissibility of "independent activity" in this exceptionally crucial matter.

This version of a solution has also been proposed: The units and subdivisions that are being used as guards at corrective labor institutions, as convoy escorts, and for maintaining public order would be transferred to the jurisdiction of the republic Internal Affairs Ministries. This is a large part of the internal forces. The Internal Affairs Ministries of the republics are authorized to independently make all decisions for using them to fight crime and maintain public order. But here one must especially stipulate the inadmissibility of using these troops as a means of applying power pressure in interrepublic conflicts.

For the transition period the activity of troops under republic jurisdiction, in our opinion, should be regulated by previously published legislative acts, and their internal life should be arranged according to the regulations and instructions of the USSR Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs. This is especially important since a legal vacuum in the regulation of the activity of the troops could have the most undesirable consequences.

[TRUD] But probably all the problems of switching the jurisdiction of the troops to the republics cannot be resolved at the same time.

[Barannikov] Excessive haste here is simply harmful. I am convinced that in a certain stage we will inevitably have to preserve the times that have been established and the system of cadre training and combat training of personnel, as well as the system for providing republic units with arms and material and technical means.

The troop reform also envisions creating interrepublic internal forces from existing units assigned to operations and guarding especially important objects. Where they are stationed will be coordinated with the republics. These forces will be called upon to prevent and interdict armed interethnic and other mass conflicts and render aid to the republics in maintaining public order and people's safety during natural disasters. They will be assigned tasks of guarding industrial enterprises and other especially important facilities. A proposal has been adopted to place interrepublic troops under the jurisdiction of the State Council to assign responsibility for their leadership to the minister.

[TRUD] And at first some one in haste accused him of an "unsuccessful operation" in Checheno-Ingushetia during 8-9 November 1991, and then, after giving it some thought, they admitted that you and your colleagues had made the most correct decision. How do you feel about this situation in general?

[Barannikov] The information the internal forces leaders had at their disposal made it possible to draw the conclusion that any confrontational action in Checheno-Ingushetia could undoubtedly provoke an outburst among the mountain peoples of the Northern Caucasus, with all the tragic consequences that would ensue from that.

As for the political decisions adopted by the Russian power structures, in this case that was their prerogative and the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs did not have the right to correct them, not to mention ignore these decisions. But the Russian leaders were informed of our viewpoint.

At the most critical point in the development of events—namely, on the morning of 9 November—there was an operations meeting of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs leadership. There they made a firm decision concerning the impossibility of using troops. There was a unanimous opinion, otherwise there would not be a single chance of avoiding bloodletting on both sides, and after this a spontaneous outbreak of pogroms and terrorist acts. I took a clearcut position which consisted in that it could be considered justified and legal to use troops only if there was a real threat to the life and safety of the people (the appearance of mass disturbances, pogroms, physical violence, genocide).

[TRUD] A couple of purely practical questions. Who will finance the Union Ministry of Internal Affairs and how?

[Barannikov] We asked the State Council (and received its support) to allot 5.9 billion rubles from the budget for 1992. In the calculations we took into account the fact that many republics are taking full responsibility for costs of maintaining internal affairs organs. At the same time some of them asked that the procedure for financing operational-investigatory subdivisions and internal forces from the Union budget be preserved.

[TRUD] The reorganization will inevitably entail a reduction or, conversely, an inflation of the apparatus...

[Barannikov] We have selected the first variant. In the Ministry of Internal Affairs apparatus we are eliminating 78 structural subdivisions. The number of personnel is being reduced by 21 percent. No less than 30 general apparatus positions are being eliminated.

[TRUD] How will you communicate with the republic Internal Affairs Ministries?

[Barannikov] An interrepublic Council of Foreign Affairs Ministries is being created. It is intended to consider and resolve fundamental issues of our joint activity.

[TRUD] How long will the reorganization take?

[Barannikov] On paper—it will be completed by 15 December. But I think the ministry has been prepared for this for a long time. The people are tired of having everything up in the air.

[TRUD] 600 people will leave... Will many be fired?

[Barannikov] Let me put it this way: The professionals may work without worrying.

TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Nov

LD2811072191 Moscow TASS in English 0641 GMT 28 Nov 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow November 28 TASS—Today's newspapers comment on the draft Union treaty published on Wednesday [27 November]. The draft has been sent to the federal and republican parliaments for discussion.

The draft is the "last chance to keep the country from disintegration," the Soviet trade union daily TRUD said.

The Soviet parliament continues to discuss the structure and composition of the future Soviet parliament staff. Parliamentarians have agreed the present staff "does not meet the current requirements".

The newspaper PRAVDA carries the article "We Need No War" commenting on the situation in the country's "hot spots".

It reports about a Soviet State Council session on Wednesday [27 November] that discussed relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The session attended by both republics' presidents adopted an appeal to the parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan, urging them to restore the constitutional status of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, abolished in 1988.

The Soviet youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA offers the article "Gentleman with a sub-machine gun" telling about the situation in Groznyy.

PRAVDA publishes an interview with Soviet Prime Minister Ivan Silayev [words indistinct] he speaks about the results of his trip to Brussels. "Our task number one is to feed people," Silayev said.

In an interview with the newspaper, former Moscow's party chief Yuriy Prokofiev warns the Soviet Union is moving towards a totalitarian rather than a law-governed state. "The block of leftist forces is the party [words indistinct]," he said. He stressed these forces should openly not covertly protect people's interests.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper carries a report by its correspondent about a congress of Russia's communists held in Ekaterinburg [Sverdlovsk]. The congress created a Party of Russian Communist Workers to protect the interests of workers, farmers and lower-income families.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper (INDEPENDENT GAZETTE) offers an article about Vladimir Shevchenko, the inventor of the Soviet bullet-proof vest.

Shevchenko is the head of the Inter-Branch Research Centre of Technical Ceramics, vice-president of the

Soviet Ceramics Society and a member of the International Ceramics Federation.

PRAVDA publishes an article by Kazakh writer Sabit Dosanov, in which he speaks about the causes of the current crisis in the Soviet Union and offers ways to rescue the country.

"In this difficult and crucial situation we should use our creative potential to find reasonable compromises," Dosanov said.

In an interview with TRUD, leading Soviet economist Pavel Bunich offers nine ways to overcome the current crisis in the Soviet Union.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA devotes some of its materials to the fate of ethnic minorities in the Soviet north. In a report from Magadan, the newspaper warns "there will be no cheap gold in Magadan. There will be no gold at all, if the state continues its policy ignoring the needs of people in the north".

The Soviet military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes a letter by Soviet Academician Aleksandr Samsonov, in which he protests against "efforts to hush up, down play and shamelessly twist the fates and deeds" of participants in the Second World War.

"We cannot continue to put up with attempts to vilify our past. We should struggle for the historical truth," the academician said.

He proposed to declare 1995 the year of the victims of the Second World War.

The newspaper offers an interview with Yuriy Bukreyev, newly appointed chief of the General Staff of the Soviet land forces.

He said "the analysis of the international situation shows an aggression against our country from several directions is hardly probable".

PRAVDA carries an interview with Sebastio do Rego Barros Netto, Brazilian ambassador to the Soviet Union. He said the Soviet Union and Brazil have much in common.

Newspapers also carry articles about the situation in Yugoslavia, the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Delhi Declaration and other international issues.

Press Review for 29 Nov

LD2911085491 Moscow TASS in English 0810 GMT 29 Nov 91

["Press Review"—Tass Headline]

[Text] Moscow November 29 TASS— Newspapers highlight today the situation in the country's hotbeds of tension. According to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, the situation is worsening there. The lifting of the state of emergency by the Georgian parliament in Tskhinvali and the Dzhava district of South Ossetia did not bring about the stabilisation of the situation there. As a reply measure the Supreme Soviet of South Ossetia imposed the state of emergency on the whole of the territory and announced general mobilisation. "The true purpose of the step taken by the Georgian parliament is to deprive the Soviet Interior Ministry troops of a legal basis. But these troops remain a factor of at least relative stability in the area across the Caucasian mountain range," the newspaper stresses.

PRAVDA writes about the worsening of the situation in North Ossetia, where tension is mounting in relations between Ossetians and the Ingush people, who started a territorial dispute. A state of emergency and a curfew are in effect in Vladikavkaz, administrative centre of North Ossetia. Self-defence detachments and the national guard made up of volunteers are being created.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes about the emergency session of the USSR State Council, which tried to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh problem by means of talks. The newspaper points out that, by all appearances, the Azerbaijani and Armenian "presidents managed to reach some, if shaky, compromise. But it still remains to be seen whether or not the warring sides will agree to follow the recommendations of the State Council. The newspaper carries a report from Armenia about the reaction to the resolution of the State Council. People are not pinning much hope on the resolution. There have been so many resolutions over the past three years, but their effectiveness has proved to be too small.

PRAVDA gives a reproof to all those who wish to blast the reputation of Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, a hero of the Great Patriotic War. "Half a century after her death the girl is being tortured and executed again," the newspaper writes. Viktor Kozhemyako, a publicist, refutes with the help of facts and documents the allegations of A. Zhovtis, who called in question Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya's feat in his article, published by ARGUMENTY I FAKTY.

TRUD publishes new, previously unknown documents about the hero girl. It writes, among other things, that "Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya was betrayed by a fellow from the special reconnaissance group, from which she was sent to the rear of the Nazi troops. His name is Vasiliy Klubkov."

Army General Vladimir Lobov has contributed an article to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. He writes about the future of the Soviet Armed Forces and problems of the military reform. He stressed the need for a profound reform of the Army and writes that now all the conditions have been created for radically transforming it. In his opinion, "the model of the Armed Forces with the centralised command of army units within the framework of the single armed forces and a military-strategic space, common for all members of the Union of Sovereign States would be an optimal one for the Armed Forces. A comparatively high degree of the centralisation of command should be supplemented by a comparative independence of the command structures of each sovereign state."

Colonel Sergey Almazov, head of the Main Department of the Russian State Security Committee (KGB), writes in RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA about the work of his institution aimed at combating organised crime. According to Almazov, Russian KGB workers arrested this year 378 criminals in 312 criminal cases. The investigation into the activities of 823 especially dangerous, organised groups is under way on the territory of Russia. 104 of them established contacts with the world criminal community.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries today [29 November] an article by Sergey Alekseyev, chairman of the USSR Constitutional Compliance Committee. He writes about the experience of Norway, Sweden and Finland in the solution of socio-economic problems. Alekseyev believes that we should study the experience of the Scandinavian countries. We should not make a sharp turn from state socialism to capitalism based on absolute private property. The Scandinavian countries managed to combine the individual, personified traits, which leave much room for private enterprise, with the collective, social factors.

The Russian Orthodox Church can and should help the spiritual revival of the Soviet people, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksey II firmly believes. He expressed this conviction in an inverview with TRUD after the end of his visit to tha United States. According to Aleksey II, the Russian Orthodox Church "preserved the moral values, which it is willing to share with society. Our role is to reconcile, to help overcome confrontation, intolerance and inter-ethnic strife."

KOMSOMOLSKYA PRAVDA and TRUD carry reports about the Thursday [28 November] session of the Russian Government, which discussed the liberalisation of prices and the working out of legal acts providing for the implementation of the reform. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said that "signs of macroeconomic stabilisation should appear within two or three" months." the volume of money in circulation will gradually come into balance with the mass of commodities, after which all restrictions on foreign trade will be lifted. He also said that before the new year President Yeltsin would sign 42 decrees and government resolutions aimed at speeding up the introduction of the market-based system.

Military

Land Forces Chief Announces Reduction, Reform

LD2711223991 Moscow TASS in English 2230 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—The Soviet Union will have large groups of land troops in conflict-threatened directions. But these forces will be reduced and reformed, Lieutenant-General Yuriy Bukreyev, 50, new chief of the Main Headquarters of Land Forces, told the Central Army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) in his first interview in the new capacity, published in the newspaper's issue dated November 28.

Due to the changed international situation, the "ground defence troops" (this is the name Bukreyev prefers) will undergo considerable reductions, he emphasised.

By 1994 the Soviet Army will have 13,150 tanks, 20,000 armoured cars, 13,175 artillery guns and mortars, and 1,500 helicopter gunships in the European part of the USSR. "So, our forces will be somewhat smaller than NATO armies," Lieutenant-General Bukreyev pointed out.

He believes that under new conditions when an "aggression from several directions" against the Soviet Union is "unlikely" the entire concept of defence capability building should be reformed. It will be based on mobile defence, the general said. Land forces change over to a new structure—corps and brigades—and permanent-readiness divisions will be created. The system for the training of military cadres will change as well, he said.

Speaking of the technical equipment of Soviet troops, Bukreyev admitted that they are inferior to Western armies in matters of "reconnaissance, radio-electronic counter-measures and automatic processes of troops and weapons control".

Asked about the course of the autumn draft for national service in land forces, Bukreyev said that if the draft contingent is called up as planned, only 70-80 per cent of the army requirements will be met.

Su-25 Fighter Lost at Sea, Pilot Rescued

PM2611215391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Nov 91 Union Edition p 8

[Report by correspondent Yu. Balakirev: "Fighter Lost in Gulf"]

[Text] Vladivostok—An accident occurred in broad daylight in the sky over Zaliv Petra Velikogo.

The plane, an Su-25 fighter from a carrierborne surface-attack air regiment of the Pacific Ocean Fleet aviation, was on a routine training flight. When the warplane was 60 km from shore, one of the engines caught on fire. The pilot, Major Vasiliy Khlivnenko, was unable to control the fire and was forced to eject. He had to wait about two hours for help in the sea's autumn waters, where the temperature that day was about 5 degrees above zero. Then the pilot was winched aboard a rescue helicopter and hospitalized.

Effort To End Army CPSU Activity Concludes

PM2711163591 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

["Statement by the Commission for Discontinuing the Activity of CPSU Organizations in the USSR Armed Forces"]

[Text] The Commission for Discontinuing the Activity of CPSU Organizations in the USSR Armed Forces, which was set up in execution of the USSR Presidential Decree of 24 August 1991, declares that it has completed its work. The activity of 1,422 CPSU party committees, 29,328 primary party organizations, and 2,029 CPSU party organization control commissions in the USSR Armed Forces has been discontinued. Over 1 million communists have ceased their party activity.

The All-Army Party Committee and the USSR Armed Forces CPSU Organization Control Commission have been disbanded. Documents requiring long-term storage have been handed over to the USSR Defense Ministry Central Archives.

By decision of the USSR defense minister, all financial resources of the All-Army Party Committee will be channeled into solving the social problems of servicemen and members of their families.

A significant number of former party officials released from their post with a long service record have been recommended for transfer to the reserves. Approximately 30 percent of them have been assigned to other duties within the ranks of the USSR Armed Forces.

The commission expresses profound gratitude to all service comrades for their support and help in our work and wishes them to remain in these difficult and unsettled times a reliable guarantor of the security of all peoples, nations, and ethnic groups of our country's sovereign republics and states.

Success and happiness to you, dear combat friends!

Lithuania

Official Says Moscow Coup Possible 1-8 Dec

LD2811230291 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] According to information available to the Lithuanian State Security Department, the situation in and around Lithuania is menacing. This was stated this evening on Lithuanian television by Zigmas Vaisvila, vice prime minister and general director of the State Security Department. According to him, there is a possibility of a new putsch in Moscow between 1 and 8 December.

According to Zigmas Vaisvila, particularly heavy pressure is being exerted on Lithuania at present. The Soviets are delaying the start of negotiations on the withdrawal of the Army from Lithuania, they are not in a hurry to sign an economic treaty with Vilnius, and the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs refuses to sell weapons essential for guarding prisons, although money for these weapons has already been paid.

In the opinion of the vice prime minister, these facts coincide with the recent exacerbation of the internal political situation in Lithuania, according to Zigmas Vaisvila, with the witch-hunt which has started concerning the cooperation of parliamentary deputies with the KGB.

Agreement Signed With Soviet Baltic Fleet

PM2811151391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Captain Second Rank V. Gromak report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Chiefs Visit Their Comrades"]

[Text] Vilnius—Not so long ago the military, blindly following the center's orders, virtually never came into contact with the Lithuanian Government, but times are changing and they are learning from bitter mistakes.

A month and a half ago I accidentally met two high-ranking representatives of the Lithuanian leadership in the Baltic Fleet headquarters. They were on reconnaissance, so to speak, looking for information on the "Yantar" free economic zone. They dropped in on the new Baltic Fleet leadership. I did not attend the meeting, but I know from competent sources that a general conversation on future relations based on mutual benefit took place. The Lithuanian side's reasoning can be summed up roughly as follows. In recent times the Baltic Fleet seems to have been plagued by wasps—namely, the various entrepreneurs who have just one aim, which is to grab the biggest and juiciest piece of the cake. Would not the fleet be better off talking with the Lithuanian State? That is, a subject which—unlike the entrepreneurs—is far more reliable.

The fleet has enough fixed assets—the Lithuanian side is prepared to take them over in exchange for rubles, dollars, or on the basis of barter deals. The Lithuanian chiefs invited their Baltic Fleet comrades to be their guests so that they could discuss all the problems with the ministers.

A "team" headed by Vice Admiral V. Grishanov, Baltic Fleet chief of staff, arrived in Vilnius soon afterwards. Talks with the Lithuanian ministers were general. Admittedly, these talks produced specific results for the fleet: 200 tonnes of Lithuanian potatoes filled the fleet's storehouses.

Recently, Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral V. Yegorov arrived in the Lithuanian Republic capital. He met Lithuanian Prime Minister V. Vagnorius and several other officials and, on behalf of the Baltic Fleet, signed a protocol of intent on social and economic cooperation between the Lithuanian Republic and the Baltic Fleet. On the Lithuanian side, the protocol was signed by republic Vice Premier A. Dobravolskas.

It is clear from the document that the contracting parties have decided to exchange material and technical resources, services, and information which does not reveal either side's military or state secrets, and to promote mutually beneficial production capacities at plants and enterprises.

The Lithuanian Republic intends to help in constructing housing and in solving problems of food supplies to the Baltic Fleet and commodity turnover between the sides' trading organizations. Likewise, on the basis of the conversion processes, the fleet intends to sell surplus and obsolete material, technical, and transport means to the republic. It also intends to offer help in harnessing and exploiting Baltic Fleet water areas adjacent to the republic, and in operating the corresponding port facilities and services.

Supreme Soviet

Officials Enumerate Foreign Policy Tasks

LD2611232491 Moscow TASS in English 2231 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow November 27 TASS—One of the tasks of the Russian foreign policy is to ensure the continuance and development of everything positive achieved at the Union level, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Shepov-Kovediayev said on Tuesday [26 November].

He was speaking at a meeting of the parliament's Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations.

He said the ministry was now working to define Russia's strategy and tactics toward the countries which were part of the Soviet Union until recently, prepare a number of agreements between Russia and other republics on the protection of ethnic (above all Russian- speaking) minorities there and create a reliable system of securing human rights.

"We are now working on a complex problem of ratifying the treaties and establishing diplomatic relations with the Baltic countries," Shepov-Kovediayev said.

Committee members voiced serious concern over the failure, particularly in Latvia and Estonia, to observe the spirit and the letter of the agreements with Russia on the protection of political and other civil rights (the 16-year residence qualification in Latvia to get Latvian citizenship, etc). Their prompt ratification depends on the strict observance of the agreements, deputies stressed.

The main directions in the work of the recently established Russian Committee for Foreign Economic Relations were described by the committee chairman, Pavel Aven. These include tax regulation of foreign economic activity, licensing on the basis of open auction sales, control over the work of foreign trade associations and managing loans and credits, supporting Russian free enterprise on foreign markets and cooperation with international organisations.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze and USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev spoke about working out a Soviet-Chinese agreement on the demarcation of the border in its eastern part, which is also subject to ratification.

Highlights of 27 Nov Presidium Proceedings

LD2711222691

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1935 GMT on 27 November broadcast recorded highlights from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet session held in Moscow on 27 November.

The program began with the chairman opening the session by stating that the RSFSR draft law on the media is to be discussed, and he introduced the first speaker, deputy Yeromin.

Deputy Yeromin opened by stressing the importance of the media and the need to establish the legal framework for its actions. The USSR law has been in operation for a year, and in spite of its shortcomings, it has played an important role in guaranteeing freedom of speech. He then outlined some of the main features of this draft law, stressing the importance of the balance of interests enshrined in it. He concluded by saying that work on other laws which are parallel to this one, such as the law on copyrights, are near completion.

At 1940 GMT Yeromin introduced one of the authors of this draft law, Professor Mikhail Aleksandrovich Fedotov, who took the rostrum.

Fedotov emphasized the importance of this draft law to create a free but responsible press. He outlined some of the most important articles in the law including the provision of freedom of information, as laid down in international declarations and agreements. He talked about the social and cultural implications of the law—special provision is to be made for the production of educational programs, programs for ethnic minorities, programs for children and invalids. The broadcasting of erotic programs is to be restricted to certain hours and the preservation of cultural heritage is to be stressed.

At 1946 GMT a vote was taken on the draft law, and it was passed in its first reading by 89 votes to one.

The chairman introduced the second issue—the efficiency of the use of RSFSR hard currency reserves.

At 1947 GMT, Igor Borisovich Ivanov, chairman of the Finance Commission, summed up his committee's report, giving figures for the decline in exports, particularly to eastern European countries since the transition to trade in hard currency. The overall picture is one of decline in exports and imports, which has led to shortages.

At 1952 GMT a vote was taken on the draft law on the effective use of RSFSR hard currency reserves for 1991. It was not adopted. The chairman proposed that the commission be instructed to prepare a draft resolution in time for the next session, taking account of the deputies' observations.

At 1953 GMT, the report switched to the Chamber of the Soviet of Nationalities. Abdulatipov was in the chair. The agenda included hearing a report on the progress of the law on freedom of conscience and the draft declaration on human rights. In the afternoon the chamber will hear a report on the draft law on the media. Abdulatipov gave more details on the agenda.

At 1954 GMT an unidentified deputy took the rostrum to talk about the law on religious freedom. The deputies voted 77 to 0 to adopt this draft as it stands.

At 1956 GMT Deputy Vyacheslav Sergeyevich Polosin took the rostrum to talk about the draft declaration on human rights. He talked about some of the amendments which have been submitted.

The program ended at 2000 GMT.

28 Nov Session Highlights

LD2811222591

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2030 GMT on 28 November broadcast a recording of today's session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet session held in Moscow.

Deputy Zaytsev, chairman of the Committee on Citizenship, was invited to speak on the law on citizenship. He described an amendment which was then passed. The draft law on citizenship as a whole passed its second reading.

Deputy Bochin, chairman of the Anti-Monopoly Committee, spoke about the draft law on the protection of consumers. He outlined the principles underlying plans for extending anti-monopoly measures and consumer protection throughout the country.

A deputy then asked a question about who is responsible for the quality of television tubes—the manufacturer of the tubes or the manufacturer of the television sets as a whole? Another deputy asked about the state of the centers that are supposed to enforce the law. Bochin answered, and the draft law on consumer protection was passed.

At 2048 GMT Deputy Krasavchenko talked about the events at the Parliament on 22 November, which were inflated by the press, when the Supreme Soviet had to reject some presidential decrees. He reported on the first document that his commission has been asked to consider—the draft law on making amendments to the draft decree on social partnership and the resolution of labor disputes. He moved on to the draft decree on the formation of a Russian insurance company. It was resolved that the parliament would take cognizance of Krasavchenko's report.

At 2055 GMT Deputy Mityukov, head of the Committee on Legislation, spoke about the draft law on the election of RSFSR deputies. The law was passed.

At 2059 GMT the chairman read a proposal for changes in the membership of the Committee for Industry and Power Engineering. The proposal was adopted.

At this point the recording ended.

Deputies Adopt Law on Dual Citizenship

LD2811210491

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1000 GMT on 28 November broadcast a report by Yevgeniy Zherebenkov on today's sitting of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet.

Zharebenkov said that a Russian law on citizenship has been virtually adopted in the RSFSR Parliament, as only the date of its introduction needs to be determined. The law has been elaborated for the first time in the legislative experience of Russia and is an indispensable attribute of state sovereignty, he said.

This law is different from the corresponding Union law. "The law bans the disfranchisement of the citizenship for any motifs and introduces the institution of dual citizenship. A special article ensures the protection and patronage of its citizens who reside outside the RSFSR boundaries. The law recognizes as RSFSR citizens those people residing in other Union republics who do not wish to take citizenship of these republics," Zherebenkov said, adding: "Any able-bodied person who is 18 can acquire RSFSR citizenship, irrespective of their origin, racial or ethnic status, gender, education, language, attitude to religion, and political or other beliefs."

The law requires those wishing to adopt RSFSR citizenship to live in the RSFSR for three years continuously immediately before making an application or five years altogether; for foreigners, citizens, and people without any citizenship it will be five years; for refugees whose status is recognized by the appropriate RSFSR law the mentioned period is halved, Zherebenkov stated.

Zherebenkov concluded: "There is another condition for granting of citizenship—it is possession of legal means of existence not lower than the minimum established in the RSFSR.

"There are circumstances which make the adoption of the RSFSR citizenship easier: possession of USSR citizenship in the past or present; adoption of a child who is a citizen of the RSFSR and possessing high achievements in the sphere of science, technology, and culture; possessing a profession or a qualification of interest to the RSFSR; and also to those who have rendered their services to the peoples united in the RSFSR, to the revival of the RSFSR, or to bringing into life values common to all mankind, and also for getting asylum on RSFSR territory."

Representatives To Vote Down Emergency Budget

OW2811141491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Viktor Gubarev, chairman of the budget and finances committee of the Supreme Soviet's council of the union, told IF [INTERFAX] that at Wednesday's [27 November] closed-door conference with the Russian representatives at the Supreme Soviet Gennady Burbulis, Russia's first deputy prime minister, and Yegor Gaydar, Russia's deputy prime minister, spoke against the plans to grant the USSR finance ministry credit amounting to 90.5 billion rubles for the 4th quarter of 1991.

According to Gubarev, the Russian leadership believes that the republican governments and parliaments should consider at first the issue of dividing the USSR's domestic state debt between them.

Vladimir Voznesensky, spokesman for Russia's representatives in the Supreme Soviet, has said they decided to vote against this year's emergency budget and against the granting of credit to the USSR finance ministry.

Debates on the emergency budget and credit will be continued on Thursday [28 November] at a joint session of the 2 Supreme Soviet houses.

International Affairs

Kozyrev Ends U.S. Visit, Comments on Meetings

Said 'Very Satisfied'

LD2611234191 Moscow TASS in English 2248 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksey Berezhkov and Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] Washington November 27 TASS—The economic situation in Russia, the Russian leaders' programme of drastic reforms and U.S. assistance in implementing them were in the focus of the talks held in the White House on Tuesday between U.S. President George Bush and Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Kozyrev handed over to Bush a personal message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Asked by TASS about the content of the letter, Kozyrev said upon the end of the meeting: "This is an expanded document explaining the course of sweeping reforms, on which the Russian leadership has embarked. We want American leaders to know and understand better our intentions and difficulties encountered in implementing reforms to create a market economy and build pluralistic democracy. It is important to find the correct forms of interaction in this crucial moment. We do not ask huge credits, but hope for cooperation, for U.S. assistance to the success of the reforms."

Kozyrev emphasised he was "very satisfied" with the reaction with which the U.S. President, the secretary of state, the defence and commerce secretaries and the congressional leaders, whom he met on Monday [25 November], perceived the needs of Russia.

"They expressed understanding and readiness to cooperate and help carry through the Russian reform," Kozyrev said. "We did not expect less from the American democracy. I expressed deep gratitude for everything that has already been done for us, for granting the most favoured nation trade status to the Soviet Union, for extending credits to republics and approving by Congress of $700 million in the aid package from the Pentagon budget.

"We asked to send a group of experts to work, in close cooperation with the new Russian Government, to enact reforms. Steps that will make it easier for private capital from the U.S. and other western countries to flow to Russia would be welcomed, because we are primarily interested in their direct involvement in our economy rather than in new credits," Kozyrev said.

Asked if a referendum due to take place in the Ukraine was discussed, Kozyrev confirmed that this aspect was discussed in the context of forming the new state entity to replace the USSR. "I think all of us proceed from the need to react in a civilised manner to what is happening in the Soviet Union and find civilised ways of solving the emerging problems on the basis of the CSCE principles," Kozyrev observed.

"It seems the principles that Secretary of State James Baker set out in Moscow give a good foundation for an approach to processes in the USSR. President Yeltsin unequivocally supported these principles," Kozyrev said.

Delivers Yeltsin Message to Bush

OW2711141791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1140 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "We have seriously undermined our reputation by constantly asking the U.S. for aid and by promising in exchange to carry out reforms fast, while doing nothing in this respect," said Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on his visit to the U.S. and Canada. He brought a personal message from Russia's President Boris Yeltsin to President George Bush and conferred with the Secretary of State J. Baker, Commerce Secretary R. Mosbacher and Defense Secretary R. Cheney.

According to A. Kozyrev, the main goal of his mission is to familiarize the U.S. authorities with the essence of Russia's program for radical economic reforms. The U.S. understands the Russian leaders' plans and is in sympathy with them, he said. "Nevertheless this is our last chance," said A. Kozyrev. "If we stop halfway, we'll face a catastrophe, and then no one will view us as partners," Russia's foreign minister pointed out.

He requested the Americans to prepare recommendations that would reflect the attitude of U.S. businessmen and indicate what, in their view, hinders the effectuation of economic reforms in Russia and the involvement of foreign entrepreneurs. It was decided that in the near future a group of American experts will come to Russia to get acquainted with the situation and work out the necessary recommendations.

Comments on Integrated Union

LD2711184991 Moscow TASS in English 1803 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington November 27 TASS—Visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said here today the Russian leadership "does not seek central power", but calls for the establishment of a new union in a new form.

"We want the excessively centralized totalitarian system, characteristic of the communist regime, to disintegrate," Kozyrev told a CBS program today.

"Alongside other peoples, Russia was a victim of this regime. That is why we want to get rid of it and build a new society. But we call for the creation of a new union, a sort of integrated space, since it is far better than to be alone," Kozyrev said.

Meets With President Bush

PM2811113791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Nov 91 p 4

[Correspondent V. Drobkov report: "Meeting in Oval Office; Russian Foreign Minister Given Warm Reception on Potomac"]

[Text] Washington, 27 Nov—"I gave Boris Nikolayevich's [Yeltsin's] message to President Bush," RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev said in Russian to the journalists awaiting him on the steps of the White House. "It is an extensive document. I am not going into the details now but the point of it is that the U.S. leadership should have a better knowledge and understanding of the course of radical reforms on which the Russian leadership has embarked and the difficulties we are facing. This is important so as to find the right forms of cooperation at this decisive moment."

Then, switching to English, the minister announced that he was not seeking significant new financial aid from the United States but is advocating the development of suitable forms of cooperation and collaboration for the sake of the reforms being implemented in Russia. He noted that he is very satisfied with the reaction to these propsals from the U.S. President himself and from leading figures in the U.S. Administration with whom he has met these past few days.

It must be said that A. Kozyrev's meetings were at the highest level. On 25 November he had talks with Secretary of State Baker, Pentagon leader Cheney, Commerce Secretary Mosbacher, L. Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Senate leaders Mitchell and Dole.

On 26 November the Russian minister was received in the Oval Office by President Bush accompanied by his closest advisers. Shortly before the talk journalists were admitted to the Oval Office and were able to ask the President a few questions. Replying to your correspondent's question on how the United States can help our country to survive these difficult times, George Bush said: "We are going to talk about that today. We are trying to help your agricultural program. We are trying to help in many other ways. We are interested in helping people, precisely those people who are suffering now, and then to ease the transition to the market economy which will ultimately mean prosperity for all. That is what we intend to discuss today."

The markedly cordial reception given to A. Kozyrev in Washington reflects, in my view, the growing U.S. readiness to strengthen direct ties with the independent republics of the disintegrating Union.

In this regard the Americans are paying a lot of attention to problems of security and stability and are justifiably apprehensive that the disintegration of the USSR could lead to the spread [raspolzaniye] of nuclear weapons and the emergence of new centers of regional conflicts. By all accounts, A. Kozyrev tried to reassure his Washington interlocutors by presenting in a favorable light the resolute policy of the Russian leadership while at the same time emphasizing its need for substantial economic support from the United States.

Time will show to what extent the U.S. Administration, which has now received the Russian minister so warmly, will justify the hopes placed on it. In any event, and this is presently one of the few specific results of A. Kozyrev's visit to Washington, there will be someone to watch over this: a new minister-counsellor has appeared at the USSR Embassy who will represent Russia's interests directly in the U.S. capital.

Describes Talks With James Baker

PM2811161791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Nov 91 Union Edition p 5

[Correspondent A. Blinov report on interview with Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev: "Arms Exports Under Control"]

[Text] Washington—U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker has received RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev. After the conclusion of the meeting, which lasted more than two hours, the head of Russian diplomacy spoke about the content of the discussions that had been held when he talked with Soviet journalists.

[Kozyrev] The main topics of our dialogue included military-strategic questions, primarily the now traditional topic of nuclear arms control [kontrol]. We confirmed our line on retaining unified control of nuclear weapons. We also spoke about nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and missile technology both inside the

Union and outside it, and on this point we have complete identity of views, although it became apparent that both we and the Union departments still have some work to do on certain technical questions.

The topic of arms exports was discussed—a field that is being turned over to Russian jurisdiction. It was recognized that the realization of certain commercial interests through arms exports must not lead to political destabilization. Accordingly it is necessary to ensure that strict political control is kept on arms exports from Russia and the republics that will comprise the Union.

The U.S. side expressed full understanding of our concerns. Needless to say, in conditions of a slump in the U.S. economy the United States has a limited number of free resources, but wherever possible, such support will be offered, primarily in the form of technical aid, assistance in studying questions of implementing reform, and the establishment of the necessary mechanisms for this. Evidence of their willingness to get involved in joint work is the readiness expressed by the Americans to send to the USSR "teams" of specialists ina number of priority economic fields.

The possibility of making political and strategic decisions will also be studied. For example, the issue of leaving the Russian Federation off the list of so-called communist countries, which implies various economic and technological restrictions. We raised this question, and the U.S. side expressed a degree of sympathy, but as has been stated, they need to make an additional study of the problem, A. Kozyrev said.

Comments on U.S. Visit

LD2811143391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0447 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksey Berezhkov and Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] Washington, 28 Nov (TASS)—The visit by Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] foreign minister, to the United States came to a close on 27 November. He has had three days of intensive exchanges of views with leaders of the U.S. Administration on political, economic, and military relations between Russia and the United States, and explained the essence of the program of radical economic reforms put forward by the RSFSR president.

A.Kozyrev handed the U.S. President a personal message from Boris Yeltsin. The Russian minister presented Andrey Kolosovskiy, special plenipotentiary representative of the RSFSR, to the leadership of the administration. Kolosovskiy has taken up his duties as minister-counsellor within the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Prior to his departure from Washington, A. Kozyrev gave a TASS correspondent an exclusive interview.

The main task during this visit was to familiarize the Americans with the course of political and economic actions that we have chosen. I gained the impression that this course meets with understanding and, in principle, has won approval. There is still a need to make it more specific and to flesh it out with further material. More details about our program are expected from us. For example, we said that in the political sphere we have started moving the engine of reforms and got down to business in the Russian Federation. At the same time, we intend to hold negotiations with other republics about an economic agreement or union. This has met with great understanding and, I would say, with relief, in the sense that finally, someone in this one-sixth part of the planet has embarked on real action instead of just talking, has got down to implementing reforms, albeit unpopular and difficult, that lead in the right direction. At the same time, our vision of the political future is not fully understood here.

While six months ago, or even earlier, only one answer was suggested to us, as it were—this being that a union and recognition of the center are necessary—today my feeling is quite the opposite. They are rapidly losing interest here in the idea of the center for the simple reason that it cannot happen, and we are expected to give a more decisive and definite reply concerning the responsibility that we are prepared to take upon ourselves in the political sense.

This is closely tied up with a number of circumstances. For example, we speak about centralized unified control of nuclear weapons, something that meets with great understanding, but a question arises: Who, all the same, will exercise this control in conditions where the Union treaty has again failed to come together and where it is quite clear that whatever the case, we are talking about a confederative state? Ultimately, a reply will be demanded from us.

The same is taking place in the economic sphere. As other republics, Russia has developed economic programs of its own. Agreement, coordination, and openness of economic links are quite necessary, but who should take the entire responsibility, for example, for new credits and economic decisions? This is a prerogative of a state with a definite political profile.

It is becoming obvious now that the United States is already prepared for the fact that the Soviet Union is going to give place to a certain agglomeration of independent states. It appears that we cannot, however, give an ambiguous answer to the question of what kind of state we eventually want to become. The tendency of development has become quite definite both in the Russian Federation and in the former Union's confines as a whole, but more specific answers are being expected from us and other republics here: Is there indeed going to be a community of sovereign states instead of the Soviet Union or is it going to be a single state, after all? Then one should renounce the concept of "sovereignty of republics."

I must say that we were unable to answer this question today, and this is a fact. Our position now is in favor of forming a new union. Nevertheless, finding an answer to the question about a future union, put to us by the United States, is our homework. People are waiting for us to define ourselves. If we manage to agree between ourselves on preserving a single state capable of reforms, this will be wonderful and acceptable here. If we simply fail, despite all endeavors, to attain such concord, we must clearly say this is the near future. The Americans are ready to accept another version, too—the emergence of completely independent states but such ones which are aware of their responsibility and are linked by certain relations of a political, economic, and military alliance with other independent states. To remain between the one and the other while speaking about a union of sovereign states is at least unprecedented and, in my view, people here are not prepared for this.

Yet another conclusion I have drawn after the meetings I had in the United States includes the fact that people here are prepared for any decision by us which is adopted in a peaceful and democratic way, only not a return to dictatorship nor complete chaos and complete irresponsibility. The formulas we are talking about may signify our striving for agreement, and this is being met with understanding. They may be perceived, however, especially now after a certain stage, as a general attempt to avoid responsibility, and this already spells chaos, A. Kozyrev said.

When asked to express his opinion on the appointment of E.A. Shevardnadze as the USSR minister of external relations, A.V. Kozyrev answered:

I welcome the appointment of Shevardnadze, to the extent that he used to act—and as I understand from his first statements—intends to act as a radical reformer. I am willing to support any person or any force which will act in the direction of radical democratic reforms. In this respect I hope to be able to cooperate with him because he is a man with great experience. He rendered definite service to the reform movement, especially regarding foreign policy, and I think that we can learn from him. So I really hope that we will be able to cooperate in pushing the reforms ahead.

As far as the Union Ministry is concerned, I have already expressed my point of view. Yes, a coordinating structure is probably needed in order to solve a whole range of questions; for example, the problem of disarmament and the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Of course it is very useful to have a negotiator like Shevardnadze who is well known throughout the world and who has already done much to resolve questions of disarmament. I would be absolutely willing to cede to him in this area. By this I mean that we will simply coordinate all these positions to a greater extent so that the interests of Russia and of other republics are fully accounted for.

There is a range of other areas, such as the problems of world politics and macroeconomy, which require the coordinating role of the Union Ministry. For us this is actually convenient, because it allows us to concentrate on the immediate problems of the implementation of internal reforms, but at the same time it gives us a chance to participate in world processes.

Now a question arises: What kind of apparatus is needed for that? I do not quite understand why there must be 1,500-2,000 people for such functions. I think that a much more modest but highly professional apparatus would be sufficient for that. We must decide its size by basing ourselves on its functions and not on the abstract idea that a superpower must have a foreign ministry of several thousand people. There is a pressing need to reform the Union foreign policy department in order to prevent it from being an obstacle to the independent activity of the republics in foreign policy or to the implementation of their internal reforms. We must do this ourselves because no one can conduct our bilateral talks for us, but this does not mean that employees of the Union Ministry must be thrown out onto the street. On the contrary, most of the professionally suitable specialists must be used in the republican ministries of foreign affairs, and first of all in the Russian one.

[Question] What do you think of Boris Pankin's statement on the pages of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA about diplomatic cover for members of the special services?

[Answer] I would address this problem less subjectively. It seems to me that this is a more complicated matter. After all, there are questions of providing security for people who work abroad, there are questions of protecting secret correspondence, and finally there are intelligence operations, such as collecting information by special means. This must be done, and this is done all over the world, even under embassies' "roofs". All of this requires professionalism and ordinary diplomats cannot do it, but first of all we must ensure that those departments, be it Russian ones or from the Union, execute those precise functions instead of political investigation, ideological censorship, denunciations, and spying through the keyhole.

In other words, I would put this question as follows: Special services must tackle certain problems normal for any state, and they must carry them out in a civilized way both within the country and abroad. It is on this basis that I would start defining the number of people that are necessary to fulfill these functions. It is certainly unnecessary to have as many special services employees as we do. If this is what Pankin is talking about, then I agree with him totally—their percentage is too high—but the problem is not even in relative numbers. The number of these employees must correlate with the functions they fulfill, and these functions should now be reexamined. I would put a legislative basis to the solution of this problem. We must try to adopt a law on the activity the intelligence service, of the security services, and the services protecting secrets, and we must cooperate with them normally.

Russian Envoy to Washington Describes Role

PM2611112791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Nov 91 Union Edition p 6

[Interview with A. Kolosovskiy, special representative in the United States, by A. Ivanko in Moscow; date not given: "Russia's First Envoy in the United States"]

[Text] The first diplomatic representative of the Russian authorities abroad receives guests in the former office of CPSU Central Committee Secretary V. Falin in Staraya Ploshchad, which Andrey Kolosovskiy, who has just been appointed Russia's special representative in the United States, will occupy through 23 November when he leaves for Washington.

A. Kolosovskiy will be the third Soviet minister-counselor in the United States and will work within the framework of the USSR Embassy, but he hopes to have his own apparatus.

[Kolosovskiy] At first, it will just be two or three of the embassy diplomats—those who have helped us before—because my work is still funded by the Union Foreign Ministry. In the future, when we have small sections in embassies, they will have to receive money from the Russian budget. Then there will be between five and eight people working with me in Washington, both from among the diplomats working in the United States already and from among Russian cadres.

[Ivanko] What do you see as your chief tasks?

[Kolosovskiy] To maintain contacts with official U.S. establishments, businesses, and the public and to explain what Russia intends to do in the sphere of reforms. There is a lack of information about our actions in the West, including in the United States. I also intend to tackle questions of humanitarian aid for Russia and investments. Feedback is also important, but I will have to solidify many of my functions on the spot. [Kolosovskiy ends]

Taking into account the fact that A. Kolosovskiy will be working within the framework of the USSR Embassy, an agreement was not formally required, but there was a preliminary discussion with the Americans, and their consent to his appointment essentially was obtained.

A. Kolosovskiy does not intend to enter into any conflict with the embassy. On the contrary—and he emphasizes this—he will work in a coordinating role with the ambassador and hopes for expert consultative assistance from the embassy, although he does not rule out the possibility that Russia's representative might have his own approach in any situation. He will work in the USSR Embassy building.

[Ivanko] Will you apply to the ambassador, as is customary now, for permission to travel somewhere in the country if the need arises?

[Kolosovskiy] I do not think that the ambassador will put any obstacles in my way, but I wish to add that the entire setup for the presence of diplomats in the United States has been preserved from the worst times of the "cold war." Consultations will be held about this in December, and it is proposed that the republics will participate in them. We hope to bring the arrangements of our presence in line with the relations which have taken shape between the USSR and the United States.

Results of Yeltsin's Germany Trip Assessed

PM2611112891 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Nov 91 Union Edition pp 1, 6

[S. Guk article: "On What Terms the New Germany Is Prepared To Help the New Russia"]

[Text] For Bonn the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin resembled in some ways a high-wire act. Russia has not yet been recognized as an independent state but, being the largest republic with the strongest economic potential, it is a factor which the Germans cannot ignore now or in the future. So the visit took place, as it were, as both a working and a state visit simultaneously.

But this is not the main thing. Something else is more important: What were the Germans expecting, and what could the head of Russia count on?

Bonn was expecting clarity. With whom, in fact, are they to deal in the future—with the center, with individual republics, or a mixture of the two? How will the new Union treaty look, and how will it regulate problems of external relations? Will the "nuclear breakup"—the dividing up of the USSR Armed Forces among the republics—be halted? Will...?

The answers to many questions seem to be a matter for the future. At any rate, the German mass media write about the Russian president's vague ideas about the future Union and the fact that the guest mainly emphasized Russian problems during the trip. Of course, this is understandable, for Boris Yeltsin was not representing the center. However, the Germans made it clear to him that there cannot be satisfactory cooperation with individual republics—not even with such a large one as Russia—without resolving common key problems. Bonn, like other Western capitals, incidentally, is interested in a unified center and in its maintaining control over the nuclear arsenal and the Armed Forces of the former USSR, including nuclear power generation as well. In this case the West is mainly concerned about its own safety, and it can hardly be rebuked for this. The scale of future economic cooperation and of the assistance which Germany and its partners will be willing and able to give in the future also depends on the resolution of these problems.

It was economic cooperation and the attracting of German investments that were the crux of the program of the visit by Boris Yeltsin, who emphasized the need to open a new chapter in relations between "the new Russia and the new Germany."

As a result, the sides signed a 12-page document. A document of intent: As soon as the proclaimed aims are followed by the start of specific steps to make the transition to a market economy, the Germans will be prepared to support these measures in one form or another. With capital investments, with supplies of hardware and equipment, with assistance in organizing banking and creating a stable currency, with support for small and medium enterprises—those capillary vessels of any normally functioning market economy. Incidentally, a center will be set up in Yekaterinburg to assist small and medium Soviet business.

And no credits (Germany has already granted the USSR more loans in the past than any other state), particularly as Boris Yeltsin himself announced that he had not come to the FRG as a suppliant. True, humanitarian (free) aid will continue to be given, particularly to those parts of Russia where a real threat of famine arises.

It has not yet been possible to attract major private investors to invest their capital in the Russian economy. Although Boris Yeltsin's promises to representatives of the FRG business world (guarantees of investments, the transfer of profits abroad in hard currency, protection against expropriation) made a pleasant impression, they did not lead to specific results. The Germans are a hard-bitten, cautious people, they have already heard more than enough promises from our leaders, and so they prefer first to see real progress and only then to decide whether it is worth taking a risk. And in this case the "captains of German industry" seem to be more interested at present in traditional spheres of capital investments (exploitation of oil and gas deposits and other minerals), and far less interested in spheres of vital importance to us—production of food and consumer goods. Cooperation with the new Laender (the former GDR) promises far greater opportunities, the Germans hinted to the Russians. The problems there—the destruction of the command system and the transition to the market—are similar to ours, and both sides are in a difficult position, albeit not an identical one, so let one "hard-bitten" people help out another.

One rather unpleasant incident somewhat marred the generally elated atmosphere of the visit, when Chancellor H. Kohl asked his guest to confirm in public whether Erich Honecker would be returned to Germany. And the Russian leader, who hitherto had spoken of the "illegality" of Honecker's presence on Russian territory, preferred not to make any promises (I have already taken away too much competence from Gorbachev, so let him resolve this question himself).

To all appearances, this statement did not elicit a positive response from the Germans. H. Kohl later deemed it necessary to emphasize that a different situation suits Bonn far better—not a struggle for competence, but cooperation: Gorbachev and Yeltsin need each other, and "we must help them in this, and this is the purpose of my policy."

You cannot regard Boris Yeltsin's visit as being rich in specific agreements, but it was not without results either. At least the sides are now well aware what to expect from each other.

Japanese Industrialists Attend Moscow Seminar

PM2611150491 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Nov 91 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Dialogue Will Be Continued"]

[Text] Never before has such a prestigious delegation of Japanese industrialists visited Russia. About 40 leaders of large firms, including Araki Hiroshi, vice president of the "Tokyo Deireku" company; Yoshida Hideniko, general director of the "Toshiba" company; and Idomitsu Akira, chairman of the "Idomitsu Kosan" company, took part in the Japanese-Soviet seminar held yesterday in the White House.

It must be acknowledged that the Japanese entrepreneurs know insultingly little about our country. This is understandable to some extent since President Yeltsin's recent package of decrees marking the start of radical reform has not yet reached the Japanese, but when it became clear that they were ignorant about the Law on Foreign Investment which has been in force since 1 September and that they know nothing about the status of the free economic zone in neighboring Sakhalin, things became pitiful.

The Russian parliamentary team at the seminar, led by RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov, tried to talk openly about our problems and conditions for foreign investors.

Lukin Leads Delegation to Japan, Comments

PM2811142191 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Nov 91 p5

[Correspondent N. Tsvetkov report: "In Spring, a Question of Life or Death Will Lose its Edge"]

[Text] Tokyo—It is hard to say how many high-ranking visitors from Moscow have been to Tokyo in the past year, but one thing is clear: There have been a lot, perhaps more than in the past five years combined. There have been individual and group "raids," and an unprecedentedly large "assault landing" led by President M.S. Gorbachev in April. Each time our side has talked—in one way or another—of the need to develop Japanese-Soviet economic relations or, to be more precise, has called upon the Japanese to give us urgent financial and economic assistance. Each time the Japanese have explained the difficulties involved: the economic chaos in our country, political discord, etc. In short, the absence of what the Japanese call "ukezara": literally, the small plate on which restaurants serve food from a large, general dish, plus of course, the idiosyncracies of our bilateral political relations and the absence of a peace treaty, which, in the opinion of the Japanese, cannot be concluded until the territorial question has been settled.

For all its importance, the latter does not outweigh the former. Interest in the "northern territories" in Japan is by no means as great as it may seem to those who spend all their time in Japanese offices. It is another matter that important policies are made in these very offices.

The economic and political situation in the territory which the Japanese are used to calling "Soren" (the Soviet Union) interests everyone: politicians, businessmen, and financiers.

That is probably why the Japanese paid such attention to the visit to Tokyo by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Committee for International Relations and Foreign Economic Ties. Virtually the entire "ruling elite" (pardon me for using a stock phrase now associated with the stagnation era) found time to meet him. Although it was common knowledge that the purpose of his visit was very specific: to give Prime Minister Miyazawa a message from Russian President Yeltsin. The message contained Yeltsin's comments on the economic reform program. The talks with Lukin provided an additional opportunity to find out more about what is happening in our country.

At V. Lukin's meeting with Soviet journalists, held just before he set off for the airport, your correspondent managed to ask the Russian president's envoy a couple of questions.

[Tsvetkov] Does Russia intend to work to conclude a Russian-Japanese peace treaty, as discussed by Boris Nikolayevich during his visit to Tokyo in January 1990? What specific steps may be taken in this direction?

[Lukin] I think Russia is now making very active efforts to conclude a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty. Japan wants that to happen, and so does our country. Since Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's visit to Japan, you have probably noticed that at the level of documents and real politics, there is an understanding that Russia cannot fail to play an exceptionally important role in all-union relations with Japan. Whatever the combination of sovereign republics in the new Union and whatever the degree of their participation, there is no getting away from the fact that our country only has one Pacific republic. Russia is Japan's neighbor in the Union. That was apparent during Gorbachev's visit. Preparations are now under way for talks at foreign minister level. In multilateral talks, a Union representative will preside and a Russian representative will participate. When it comes to bilateral relations, the situation will be reversed: A Russian representative will preside and a Union representative will participate. I think this is the kind of arrangement the Japanese side needs: It will show that we are working in concord in this matter. That is best for us too, I believe.

As far as the well known question of territorial demarcation is concerned, a substantial proportion of our population is very suspicious of any compromise on this matter. That is a fact of life. I think the main problem lies within the country. Active efforts must be made to reach a consensus. Transferring territory to another country is an unpopular measure however that territory may have been acquired. On the other hand, the question of improving relations with Japan for the future is a key issue in our life. Boris Nikolayevich's recent appeal marked the beginning of serious efforts to reach a consensus.

[Tsvetkov] How, in your opinion, can that consensus be reached?

[Lukin] I think it would cause uproar if I talked about that now, particularly on Japanese territory. So I would prefer to express my opinion on complex disputes in my own country, otherwise they might put me in irons, heaven forbid. I do believe a consensus is possible, however. It must be. There is a law on referendums. Laws must be obeyed. Political wisdom lies in preparing this question in such a way that it ceases to be a matter of life or death. It must logically follow on from the population's acceptance of political decisions.

[Tsvetkov] How do you feel about trends of a separatist nature, shall we say, including in the Far East? Or does this fit in with the policy of giving freedom to individual regions and administrative units?

[Lukin] There are two sides to this question. The first is that our large country—even Russia, although it is somewhat smaller than the Union as a whole—cannot be run rigidly from the center. It is ridiculous if the Council of Ministers is going to decide how to transport a consignment of nails from Stavropol to Nakhodka, for example. Consequently, regional economic organizations are a perfectly reasonable, normal phenomenon, but when all kinds of myths arise—about a Far Eastern republic, a Siberian republic, a Cossack republic, etc.—this is leading straight back to the middle ages. [Lukin ends]

Moreover, Vladimir Petrovich said that he had not been instructed to request any additional aid from the Japanese. He had thanked them for decisions already made, i.e. for their intention to give the Soviet Union credit worth $2.5 billion on preferential terms. Of this, $1.8 billion is intended as insurance for Japanese business in Soviet territory. This, Lukin believes, is more important for us than simply borrowing yet more money.

Boris Yeltsin may visit Japan next spring, but only if domestic affairs permit and if, to use Lukin's expression, Soviet-Japanese relations are given some sort of foundation.

Cooperation Memorandum Signed With Iran

LD2611160991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1538 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Nov (TASS)—A memorandum on the principles of political, economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation was signed here today by Russia and Iran. The document was signed by Yegor Gaydar, deputy chairman of the Russian Government and minister of the economy and finance, and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who is here on a visit.

"We would like to preserve the relations which existed between Iran and the USSR and to continue implementing projects that have been started," the Russian minister stated at the signing ceremony. Yegor Gaydar called the memorandum "an important document" which lays the foundation for the development of relations between Russia and Iran.

The Iranian foreign minister noted the presence of great economic potential in Russia and expressed the willingness of his government to develop all-round relations with the republic.

Yeltsin Receives Iranian Foreign Minister

LD2611175491 Moscow TASS in English 1740 GMT 26 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow November 26 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who handed over to him a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Yeltsin informed Velayati about prospects in relations between Russia and Afghanistan. In this regard, he raised the issue of Soviet prisoners of war and asked the Iranian leadership to help them return to their homeland.

The two discussed prospects for Russian-Iranian economic cooperation.

Government Holds Trade Talks With Poland

LD2711154691 Moscow TASS in English 1437 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Warsaw November 27 TASS—The Russian Government will guarantee the export to Poland of priority items that are on a special list. Such is the main outcome of the second round of the Polish-Russian trading talks on settlement of accounts in 1992. It was held by experts of foreign economic agencies of the two countries and ended on Tuesday [26 November].

"A large step towards the development of trade between Poland and Russia was taken at the talks in Warsaw," Boleslaw Krawczik, director of department of the Polish Ministry for Foreign Economic Cooperation, told PAP News Agency. "It was agreed that the Russian Government assumes all the obligations of the former USSR in trade relations, including debts. Trade turnover between the two countries will be balanced next year and accounts will be settled in hard currency," he said.

Polish and Russian enterprises and firms can also trade in goods that are not on the list.

France Supplying Food Aid for Oil, Gas

OW2711020091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2035 GMT 26 Nov 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Throughout the last months of 1991 and the first quarter of 1992, France will supply Russia, primarily Moscow, with 100,000 tons of sugar, 100,000 tons of meat, 20,000 tons of dry milk, and 7,000 tons of baby food, at a total cost of $275 mn [million].

In payment for the food assistance, the Russian concern Rosnefteproduct will export approximately 1 mn tons of oil, 500,000 tons of fuel oil, and 1.5 bn [billion] cubic meters of natural gas to France.

Belorussia

Republic May Sign Union Treaty by End of Year

LD2811221191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, leader of the Supreme Soviet of Belorussia, declared today that the republic will be able to sign the new Union treaty at the end of this year or the beginning of the next. Not only will we not be able to deal with the Chernobyl problems on our own, said Shushkevich, but we also understand perfectly well that we cannot now tear apart the existing economic space.

According to the leader of the Belorussian parliament, it would be suicidal to act differently in conditions of an economic crisis. This was a report from INTERFAX.

Republic Halts Payments to Union Budget

OW2811001791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2040 GMT 27 Nov 91

[From "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Byelarus [Belorussia] Government has ordered all enterprises, organizations and institutions, regardless of their departmental identity, to halt tax and non-tax payments to the Union budget as of November 1, 1991 [as received].

As of November 1, all enterprises and organizations must also stop selling a portion of their hard-currency earnings to the Union-republic hard-currency fund, as was previously required. Instead, this portion of hard-currency earnings must be transferred to a special account, and the funds will be used to purchase medication for the republic.

Byelorussian leaders say that the Union government has failed to carry out its promise to assist the republic with resources needed to alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, and this partially created the necessity of making the current decision.

Moldova

Republic Seeks Talks on Ukrainian Territory

OW2911132391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1100 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mr. Ion Tsurkanu, secretary of the Presidium of the Moldovan parliament, proposed starting an open and matter-of-fact discussion of the return to Moldova of its territory which is now under the jurisdiction of the Ukraine.

He wrote on Friday 29 November] in the newspaper INDEPENDENT MOLDOVA that in the context of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact this problem must be discussed during bilateral talks between Moldova and the Ukraine, and also within the framework of the Economic Community Treaty.

Mr. Tsurkanu believes that if these efforts bring no results, the problem should be discussed at international political forums.

"No one will venture to say that in the past Moldovans laid claims on foreign territories. We did and will always demand that we only get back what belongs to us," he said.

Ukraine

Republic Supports CFE Treaty; Seeks CSCE Rank

OW2811163291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1532 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukraine supports the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE] signed in 1990, and calls for its soonest ratification and implementation by all the signatories, said the presidium of the Ukrainian parliament in its statement published today.

According to the document, the Ukraine, as a successor to the former USSR, believes that it's necessary to comply with the treaty's provisions concerning all the armed forces stationed on its soil, including inspections and control procedures mentioned by the treaty. The Ukrainian armed forces, the statement says, are covered by the treaty.

The statement points to the importance of the Ukraine's direct participation in the CSCE and in talks on control over conventional arms in terms of strengthening stability and security in Europe.

Romania Makes Territorial Claims Over Vote

LD2811211291 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 28 Nov 91

[Text] The Romanian parliament spoke out against holding the referendum planned for 1 December on some of the territories of the Ukraine. The statement notes that the referendum is going to be held on the Romanian territories of Northern Bukovina, Gertsa Okrug, Khotin Okrug, and in Southern Bessarabia. It states that the Romanian parliament's official position is that these territories were forcefully separated from the country and that the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact was annulled by both the Soviet Union and Romania. Naturally the Ukraine has the right to organize and hold the referendum on the question of determining its independence, the document notes, but this referendum cannot be held on Romanian territories, which were forcefully annexed by the former USSR and which have never belonged to the Ukraine but are legally Romanian. Underlining that Romania follows the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, the members of the parliament appealed to the Ukraine to study the possibility of solving the disputed territorial questions in a peaceful and diplomatic way.

Foreign Minister Cancels Visit to Romania

LD2911125191 Moscow TASS in English 1216 GMT 29 Nov 91

[By correspondent Dmitriy Diakov]

[Text] Bucharest November 29 TASS—Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko aborted his plans to visit Romania at the last moment. He was expected to arrive in Bucharest today in the morning. A spokesman for the Romanian Foreign Minister could not tell TASS why Zlenko cancelled the visit that had been announced in the Romanian capital.

Many local observers believe this is connected with a resolution adopted by the Romanian parliament on Thursday [28 November] stating that Romania will not recognise the results of the Ukraine's referendum on independence, scheduled for December 1, in some regions of the republic. The areas in question are North Bukovina, former Gertza district and some populated localities south of Moldova, which, according to the resolution, are "Romanian lands." This statement of the Romanian parliament came after a noisy campaign launched in the local press, in the course of which territorial claims were made to the Ukraine.

It is believed here that the worsening of relations between the two states will put the Romanian Government in a difficult position, as it hoped to strengthen economic relations with the neighbouring republic. Gas, oil, electricity and other energy carriers, imported by Romania from the Soviet Union, are delivered across the Ukrainian territory. President Ion Iliescu opposed recently the attempts to set Romania against its neighbours. But leaders of most opposition parties, which on November 14 opposed the holding of a referendum on so-called "Romanian lands", failed to heed the appeals of the heads of state and government.

Kravchuk Voices Opinions on Treaty Issues

Comments on Gorbachev Statement

LD2711225791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Chairman of Ukraine Supreme Soviet Kravchuk has sharply rebuked Gorbachev on the eve of presidential elections in Ukraine for saying that Ukraine will join the new Union. He told a meeting at the Sumy Institute: The Ukraine Supreme Soviet did not give Gorbachev the right to speak on behalf of the Ukrainian people. I also do not support pronouncements made by Mikhail Sergeyevich about Ukraine signing the new Union treaty. He has no grounds for saying such things. [passage omitted]

Opposes Union Treaty

OW2811200691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "We are not going to live outside the Union's borders, we are against the Union which is being imposed on us," said Leonid Kravchuk speaking in Kharkov TV.

Prospective candidate to the post of Ukrainian president, Leonid Kravchuk visited Kharkov during his election campaign.

He said the Ukraine did not intend to join the political union on the principles set forth in the draft political treaty on the Union of Sovereign States.

Notes Problems With Economic Treaty

LD2811114891 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in English 0100 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] As we envisaged, the (?passions) in connection with the signing of the new Union treaty are not too far away. Speaking at the meeting with his representatives, Russia's President Boris Yeltsin stated that trade with those republics which will not sign the political treaty about the Union of Sovereign States will be carried out at the prices admitted in the world. In this connection, Chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet Leonid Kravchuk said the following:

[Begin Kravchuk recording in Ukrainian fading into English translation] Boris Yeltsin said that now Russia is going to trade at the world prices, for instance while selling gas and oil. So what will be the difference for us to purchase them from Russia or say from the Middle East? Previously all our relationships among republics were based not on the hard currency but on specific prices. That it is why I have arrived at a conclusion that the treaty about economic community will not work. (?We live), we move forward, we believe that after taking a certain document the living standards will improve but in reality (?really) worse and worse with each passing day.

Boris Yeltsin's statement as to transition to the world prices in case of not signing the Union treaty by Ukraine is a unilateral nature. Yeltsin said that Ukraine will have to spend $12 billion in this case. However, he does not take into account the fact that Ukraine will also have to make a similar step in response. That is while selling metal, pipes, sugar, meat, sausages, and other goods to Russia. [sentence as received] [end recording]

Kravchuk Bodyguard Stabbed During Attack

LD2711211591 Moscow TASS in English 1939 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko—TASS]

[Text] Kharkov November 27 TASS— A bodyguard of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet's chairman Leonid Kravchuk has been attacked here today.

Kravchuk, who is also a candidate for the Ukrainian president, arrived in Kharkov on November 27 for his pre-election campaign.

While Kravchuk was visiting the city market and talking to people, an unknown man stabbed with a knife a staffer of the National Security Service, protecting the parliament's chairman. The knife pierced the guard's coat, jacket and holster, slid along the gun's hilt and left a small wound in the heart area.

The officer is now in a satisfactory condition. Criminal proceedings have been instituted, and an investigation has begun.

Presidium Statement on 'Own Armed Forces'

LD2711233791 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Statement adopted by Ukraine Supreme Soviet Presidium on armed forces of Ukraine]

[Text] In accordance with the declaration on Ukrainian state sovereignty, the act proclaiming the independence of the Ukraine, and laws enacted by the Ukraine's Supreme Soviet on military matters, the Ukraine has begun forming its own armed forces.

The tragic events of the August coup forced the Ukraine's Supreme Soviet into decisive actions to insure the protection of its sovereignty, the constitutional system, and the citizens of the Ukraine. The decisions by the USSR State Council on 4 and 14 November 1991 on preserving unified armed forces and the disregard by the leadership of the Union Ministry of Defense of sovereign Ukraine's constitutional right to create its own armed forces do not conform with the Ukraine's legislative acts. This leads to tension among the personnel of military formations deployed on the territory of the Ukraine and has a negative effect on morale, psychological make-up, and combat readiness.

Because problems that concern the military sphere substantially influence the sociopolitical situation in the Ukraine, the Presidium of the Ukraine's Supreme Soviet states:

The Ukraine is creating its own armed forces by reforming military groupings deployed on its territory for the exclusive purpose of guaranteeing protection against an external military threat from wherever it might emanate and insuring the inviolability of its state borders and territorial integrity.

The Ukraine will never permit its armed forces to be used against the people of the Ukraine and other sovereign states and pursues the sole aim of ensuring peace and tranquillity on its territory.

In order to avoid a destabilization of the situation and a lowering of combat efficiency in the army, both in our republic and in other republics of the former Union, the process of creating the Ukraine's armed forces is being conducted while taking into consideration the existing sociopolitical realities. It is being undertaken only on a legal basis, stage by stage, by means of joint definition of military policy, by the adoption of legislative acts by the Ukraine's Supreme Soviet, by preparing and concluding corresponding treaties and agreements, and by holding consultations with other sovereign states and the USSR Ministry of Defense to work out and implement a mechanism to reform the all-Union armed forces.

Acting gradually and taking into account all factors of national defense, the Ukraine will carry out its intention to become a neutral and nuclear-free state that will not belong to military blocs and that will adhere to three non-nuclear principles: not to receive, not to manufacture, and not to acquire nuclear weapons.

The Ukraine will partake in implementing all treaties and agreements on the non-use of nuclear weapons and on reducing conventional arms and armed forces. The Ukraine will also facilitate the ratification of treaties and agreements between the United States and the USSR and other states on these matters.

The Presidium of the Ukraine's Supreme Soviet calls on the personnel of military formations deployed on the Ukraine's territory to continue to carry out military service, to steadfastly adhere to the statutory regulations of military discipline, and not to permit any kind of destabilizing acts.

We once more confirm that everything will be done to insure the social and legal protection of all servicemen and members of their families and to create the necessary conditions for military service in the Ukraine.

The Presidium of the Ukraine's Supreme Soviet calls on all citizens of the Ukraine and servicemen doing military service on its territory to preserve civic peace and tranquillity.

Republic Plans 100,000-Strong Army 'At Most'

LD2811152391 Moscow TASS in English 1306 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By correspondent Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague November 28 TASS—"The Ukraine is on its way to building a democratic independent state", Nikolay Makarevich, the first deputy minister of the

Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today in an interview with MLADA FRONTA DNES, a Czechoslovak newspaper.

The Ukrainian representative, who is in Czechoslovakia on a working visit, stressed the republic will be a non-nuclear, neutral state, and voluntarily take on all obligations, arising from international agreements - first of all, from the treaty between the USSR and the U.S. on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

"We do not want to and will not be a nuclear state which would violate the geopolitical and geostrategic balance in the world", Makarevich emphasised.

"The Ukrainian Army will be 100,000-strong at most. It will be a small, mobile, professional army, ready to protect interests of the Ukrainian state and the people", he indicated.

"I wish to assure Czechoslovak citizens that no powerful military force will threaten them on the part of the Ukraine. Quite the reverse, an important document on cooperation and neighbourliness between the Ukraine and Czechoslovakia which will form the basis of their future mutual relations, is now under preparation", Makarevich pointed out.

Presidential Candidates View Future Changes

LD2811162691 Moscow TASS in English 1611 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By World Service commentator Sergey Svistunov]

[Text] Moscow Washington 8 TASS—Campaigning for presidential election in the Ukraine has entered its final phase. Ukrainians will go to the polls to elect president of the republic on December 1.

Like the majority of the contenders for president, Vladimir Grinev, the 46-year-old deputy chairman of the Ukraine's Supreme Soviet, sees the Ukraine as a sovereign democratic federative state. In an interview with the youth newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA published today, Grinev opposed dividing the Ukraine along ethnic lines. Grinev gives preference to territorial entities. "Let it be a union of lands," he said.

Grinev thinks the Ukraine should join the military-political union of sovereign republics. Nevertheless, he is against central control over the armed forces and nuclear weapons. "It would be an optimum solution to set up a joint command and joint control over nuclear weapons. Other versions do not hold water." KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries excerpts from Grinev's speech at a meeting with voters in Kharkov, a major industrial centre in the east of the republic.

According to Grinev, private ownership and the freedom of enterprise are the underpinnings of the entire activity of the state. He criticises the republican parliament for "being engaged in big politics, skirting acute economic problems."

Leonid Kravchuk, the present chairman of the Ukrainian legislature and the front-runner for president of the republic, criticises parliament even more scathingly. The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA paper today quotes him as saying at a meeting with voters that "half of the parliament's working time passed unproductively". It does not rule out that once Kravchuk is elected president, his conflict with parliament could escalate and even bring about a dissolution of the Supreme Soviet.

The national referendum on the republic's independence will be held in conjunction with presidential elections. Many specialists think its results are a foregone conclusion—the people will unequivocally say "yes" to independence, the major trade union newspaper TRUD writes today.

TRUD quotes Svetlana Ostroushchenko, deputy of the Ukrainian parliament, as saying "this result will give the Supreme Soviet a pretext to contend that popular support for independence is synonymous to non-participation in any Union treaty."

It is possible that the parliament, referring to the results of the referendum, will refuse to ratify the Treaty on the Economic Community, approved and signed by the Ukraine earlier.

Presidential Candidates Urge Independence

LD2811190891 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Candidates for Ukraine's presidency, Levko Lukyanenko, Leopold Taburyanskyy, Vyacheslav Chornovil, and Ihor Yukhnovskyy, have sent an appeal to the people of Ukraine in which they call to say yes to the act of Ukraine's independence at the referendum on 1 December this year. Only statehood will allow the Ukraine to ensure the rights and freedoms of its citizens, well-being and accord to representatives of all nations living on Ukraine's land, and constitute the people of Ukraine [sentence as heard]. Democratic and prosperous Ukraine must enter the world community as equal among equal, reads the appeal.

Kravchuk Says 85 Percent Want Independence

LD2811191891 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2300 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk, the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, expressed his conviction that the people of the republic will vote for independence at the coming referendum on 1 December. I expect, he said, that the figure will be no smaller than 85 percent. In his interview to journalists, Kravchuk reminded that Ukraine initialled the Treaty on Economic Community of Sovereign Republics. However, we resolutely come out against setting up any central (?all-Union) bodies, he said. At the same time, Kravchuk rejected accusations of separatism and stressed that Ukraine strives for cooperation with other republics.

Majority in Kharkov To Vote for Independence

OW2911004291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 63% of people in Kharkov region which is populated largely by Russian-speakers intend to vote in favor of independence for the Ukraine in Sunday's [1 December] referendum. This has been revealed by a poll conducted by Kharkov's sociological center. 22% of those questioned intend to vote against the act that proclaims independence for the Ukraine. 15% of respondents were undecided.

Crimean Tatars Approve Election Participation

LD2811191191 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] A regional conference of the delegates of the assembly of Crimean Tatars living in the Crimea and Krasnodar region of the Russian Federation has been held in Simferopol. The conference delegates approved the appeal of all the Crimean Tatars living in Ukraine to take part in the 1 December referendum and vote for Ukraine's independence. They also called upon the electorers [as heard] to vote for either Vyacheslav Chornovil or Levko Lukyanenko who run in the presidential elections to be held on 1 December.

Interrepublic Affairs

Armenian, Azerbaijani Leaders To Resume Talks

LD2911112591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] The leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia have agreed to resume the interrupted talks on a settlement to the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh. They intend to meet in Zheleznovodsk before the end of the year. Both presidents think that the confrontation can only be ended through constructive talks and that there is no alternative to a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh issue.

Armenia

Republic Opposes Change in NKAO Autonomy

LD2711193791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1908 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Yerevan, 27 Nov (TASS)—The Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh is opposed to the decision by the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet to cancel the autonomous status of Nagorno-Karabakh and to rename Stepanakert, its capital. This was reported today by the Karabakh news agency. There was also a session of the Council of People's Deputies of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR). Leonard Petrosyan, chairman of the NKR Executive Committee, emphasized that the republic's Armenian population regards the decision by the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet as thwarting the agreement achieved at Zheleznovodsk. He expressed the Armenian side's readiness to tackle the problem exclusively by peaceful means. The session decided to hold a referendum in the NKR this December to express the population's view on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh. Henceforth, according to a decision adopted at the session, only the laws of the USSR are valid in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Parliament Discusses Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2811112191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 28 Nov 91

["Television News Service" report by correspondent V. Nazaryan from the Armenian Supreme Soviet]

[Text] The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet's dismantling of Nagorno-Karabakh as an autonomous oblast and renaming the center of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] the town of Stepanakert have forced the Armenian parliament to work behind closed doors. A detailed report on the situation in the region was delivered to deputies by Ashot Manucharyan, chief adviser to the president of Armenia for national security.

[Begin Manucharyan recording] We remain, as before, in favor of a political resolution of the crisis and consider this development of events to be impermissible. [end recording]

[Nazaryan] As per standing orders, the next Supreme Soviet session is on 2 December, but if the situation is aggravated in keeping with a decision that has been adopted, parliament will convene immediately.

Foreign Ministry's Statement to Azerbaijan

NC2811192791 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 28 Nov 91

["Foreign Ministry statement"]

[Text] The Armenian Republic's Foreign Ministry has noted an abrupt rise in tension in Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, which threatens lives and poses irreparable consequences for the economies of the republics drawn into the conflict.

Such a development does not spring from the vital interests of Armenia and Azerbaijan. The further expansion of the conflict inevitably would affect the political balance of forces existing in the region, and [word indistinct] the international situation. All of this would harm the international standing of the two republics and would obstruct the process of recognizing their independence.

Moved by the desire to find a way out of the impasse and to create normal interstate relations between the two republics, the Armenian Republic's Foreign Ministry calls on the Azerbaijan Republic's Foreign Ministry to seek ways and means to initiate a political dialogue over vital problems disturbing the two peoples so that they can be (?settled) at a civilized, diplomatic level.

The new political thinking, the historically formed realities in the region, and the norms and principles on human rights found in the international [words indistinct], should lay the foundation of the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Official Warns of Reprisals Against Armenians

OW2711185991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The coordinator of the Armenian republican staff for Nagorno-Karabakh and areas bordering on Azerbaijan Semyon Bagdasarian has said that the abolition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region can be followed by reprisals against Armenians living in the area.

He told IF [INTERFAX] about reports received by his staff about the concentration of Azerbaijani armed units in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. On Tuesday [26 November], for example, 30 buses brought 1,000 to 1,300 volunteers of the Azerbaijani Popular Front to the area. They were stationed in Shusha, Barda, Fizuli and Agdam.

Decisions of Nagorno-Karabakh Soviet Reported

NC2811205491 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Yerevan, 28 Nov (ARMENPRES)—The decisions of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet to abolish the autonomous status of Nagorno-Karabakh and rename Stepanakert city has exceedingly exacerbated interethnic relations and the overall situation in the region.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [NKR] Soviet of People's Deputies convened today. The deputies observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the recent tragedy in Martuninskiy Rayon.

The deputies examined the explosive situation that has emerged in the conflict zone and determined their stance on the unconstitutional act of the Azerbaijani parliament.

Leonard Petrosyan, chairman of the NKR Soviet Executive Committee, emphasized in his address that the Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh considers the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet's political demarche an act aimed at aborting implementation of the Zheleznovodsk agreement, and that it undermines the prestige of Russia and its president.

At the same time, the speaker expressed the Armenian side's readiness to resolve the problem exclusively through peaceful and political means.

The deputies decided to hold a referendum in the NKR in December. The referendum will manifest the will of the indigenous population concerning the future of Nagorno-Karabakh. Interim legislation was adopted on the elections for the NKR Supreme Soviet.

In connection with the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet's demand that the USSR Internal Troops withdraw from its territory, the deputies declared that the NKR is ready to deploy some of these troops in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The NKR Soviet Executive Committee was instructed to form within three days a working group to develop the NKR's constitution and laws. The session also decided that until the constitution is adopted, only USSR laws will be enforced on NKR territory.

Some organizational matters also were discussed. With this, the session temporarily adjourned.

Troops Oppose Exploitation of NKAO 'Tragedy'

NC2711204291 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow—According to the report issued by the operational group of the Internal Troops of the USSR Interior Ministry, the situation was relatively calm in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] the previous day. Attacks are continuing, however, on the sentries of the Internal Troops. Two servicemen were slightly injured. The number of armed organizations are on the increase in the region.

The USSR Internal Affairs Internal Troops, which are maintaining public law and order in Nagorno-Karabakh, held a meeting and adopted an appeal addressed to the leadership of the Azerbaijani Republic. In it they express concern at the unfounded accusations leveled against the troops by both the leadership and the mass media of the republic. The appeal says: The hasty conclusions put forward on the accident involving the military helicopter heated up the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. Only the appropriate organs should draw conclusions. The servicemen have stressed: No one should exploit the tragedy for political purposes.

Paper Claims Downed Helicopter Overloaded

OW2711194591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [27 November] the newspaper of the Armenian Liberal Democratic Party AZG reported that the helicopter that crashed in Nagorno-Karabakh on November 20 was overloaded.

According to the paper, there were at least 30, not 21 persons aboard as reported before. Among the passengers there were bodyguards of several Azerbaijani leaders as well as several black berets. Besides, there was an unidentified cargo weighing about one and a half tons.

The paper also quoted the deputy military commander of the area of the state of emergency Colonel Alexey Popozov as saying that the helicopter departed under crude pressure from Azerbaijani leaders and the local branch of the Azerbaijani Popular Front.

'Real Culprits' Sought

NC2811160991 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpts] We bring to your attention a commentary by journalist Levon Mikayelyan in today's AZG paper, "New Facts About the Helicopter Accident."

According to Colonel Kholozov, Azerbaijani leaders, Nagorno-Karabakh's military commandant Zhinkin, and the prosecutor general Kovalyov met in Agdam on 20 November just before the flight. Zhinkin and Kovalyov had been criticized for evicting people from Khochavend, and in the meeting, pointed out there were nearly 20 depopulated villages in Gadrutskiy and Berdadzor and that no measures were taken to return the population.

On that day the weather was not good for flying, shown by a weather station report, but the leaders who had come from Baku demanded the military fly the helicopter without delay. When the military refused, National Front of Agdam leaders took to the streets. Soon, the military commandant's office in Agdam was besieged by a (?crowd), warning that the helicopter fly, or they blow up the commandant's office. It occupies three rooms on the first floor of [word indistinct] building in Agdam. The military leadership had no alternative but to give in.

The flight began at 1630 Moscow time. After five to 10 minutes the accident occurred, although it was first reported at 1530.

From Agdam to the disaster site it is 20-21 km by road and apparently 10 km by air. The helicopter flew for only two to three minutes over the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic—not enough to take aim at the helicopter, especially when the flight was kept secret from the Armenians. People in Nagorno-Karabakh knew nothing of the flight.

After the accident, the site was surrounded by Azerbaijani army units, so it is hard to believe that someone who just happened to be there pillaged the helicopter. Possibly, officials did.

Marzlu, Bagmanlar, and Gulabulu villages in Agdamskiy Rayon are not far from the accident site. Animal breeders from these villages control the region, helped by the OMON [special purpose militia detachment]. Besides, the Agdam-Martuni road is under Azerbaijani control. It has been closed to vehicles from Nagorno-Karabakh Republic for the past few months.

There is another fine point. Reliable sources say that there were not 21 people, as reported by official organs, but at least 30. Officials' bodyguards and OMON members were on the helicopter, but the OMON members are not counted (?human beings) in Azerbaijan so their names are not being divulged.

Karayev, National Front representative, was also scheduled to fly but for some reason canceled at the last moment.

Was it mere coincidence that a visit to the site by Nagorno-Karabkh Republic's experts and Security Committee representatives was prevented?

Also consider that after the accident, Vitaliy Teodorovich, crew chief commander, was pressured to say that the weather was good for flying. This must be taken into account. He had to say that; otherwise, he would have been blamed for the crash as well. [passage omitted]

According to Azerbaijani experts, the helicopter possibly exploded. It could only have exploded if it struck the mountainside with force or explosive was planted inside. The possibility of explosion from gunfire is very slight. As for the report that bullet traces have been found on the helicopter, it has been ascertained that the helicopter took part in ignominious battles in Afghanistan and was fired on several times in Nagorno-Karabakh as well.

So, it could be concluded that Azerbaijani experts' statements are not grounds to unequivocally claim that the helicopter fell because it came under gunfire. Even if it was fired on, it is only clear that the Armenian side could not have been to blame.

On the claim that it was downed by a special missile, no missile sites have been observed in Berdashen village in Martuninskiy Rayon or in the surrounding Armenian villages of Agan and Norashen. On the contrary, the Armenian villages of Khramort, Varakabuyn, Tagrab, and Agtor have come under missile attacks from villages in Agdamskiy and [name indistinct] Rayon.

It is hoped that the newly arrived commission will analyze the accident objectively and uncover the real culprits so that Azerbaijani leaders do not exploit the incident for political gain.

Gas To Be Delivered to Republic via Georgia

LD2811152891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] An encouraging report that by the end of this week gas will be delivered to Armenia via Georgia was carried by the KURANTY newspaper. The republic will be receiving between 5 and 6 million cubic meters of gas a day, Ter-Israelyan, deputy chairman of the State Committee for the Economy of the Armenian Republic, reported. If one takes into account that needs amount to 23-24 million cubic meters and that all gas will be supplied to the rayons that suffered from the earthquake, then Yerevan's present difficult situation with gas will remain unchanged.

Azerbaijan

Further Reportage on NKAO Helicopter Crash

Baku Refuses To Hand Over Black Box

LD2811225391 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 28 Nov 91

["Vesti" newscast report by Aleksandr Gurnov]

[Text] Official sources close to the Ministry of Defense have let it be known that the group of military experts that arrived, together with a laboratory plane at the order of Marshal Shaposhnikov, at the place of the crash of the MI-8 helicopter, has been confronted by obstacles to its work. The investigative commission, formed in Baku, refuses to hand over the black box; meanwhile, in the opinion of the experts, taking into account the serious damage suffered by the box during the explosion, the information can only be decyphered in the only laboratory in the USSR, which is in Moscow oblast. The experts intend to appeal to the leadership of Azerbaijan and other republics, inter alia to Russia, to help them obtain access to material evidence about the crash for objective investigation.

Box Indicates Helicopter Fired On

NC2611104791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The Azerbaijan parliament's deputy chairman has disclosed that the black box of the helicopter downed in Nagorno-Karabakh [NKAO] last week contains a pilot's recording that the helicopter was being fired on. The deputy chairman noted that the black box is in NKAO procuracy custody. The Iran news center says Baku Radio has quoted a Moscow military expert saying that there were bullet wounds on victim's bodies.

More than 20 Russian, Kazakh, and Azerbaijani officials were killed in a helicopter crash last week. They were flying to NKAO for talks on the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

'New Information' on Car, Shots

NC2711155991 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] New information has emerged about the disaster near Karakend town in Martuninsky Rayon in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] on 20 November. Safa Babayev, a Mevzili resident in Agdamskiy Rayon, told the AZERINFORM correspondent in NKAO:

My sons grazed their cattle a few kilometers from Karakend, inhabited by Armenians, on 20 November. As usual, I took them their meal at about 1400. A few minutes later, the noise of a helicopter was heard from the Karakend direction. We looked around and saw the helicopter in the sky, hearing shots at about the same time. The helicopter began to fall, making a strange noise as it did. It hit the ground and exploded.

My attention was attracted by a white car suddenly appearing after the explosion. It was heading for Karakend at high speed. Soon after, I heard several shots being fired where the helicopter had crashed.

Withdrawal of Correspondent Urged

NC2711125791 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 2050 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Director general of AZERINFORM, Azad Sharipov, has sent the following telegram to TASS Director General Vitaliy Ignatenko:

The information handed over to the commandant's headquarters in the special rayon in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] by (Burkin), who is the TASS correspondent in Stepanakert, has recently become the source of incomplete reports published by the central media organs on the situation in the NKAO. The extremely [word indistinct] and biased reports that have been handed in by (Burkin) have grossly distorted the facts, not only [words indistinct].

We informed former leading officials of TASS of similar reports several times in the past and asked them to withdraw (Burkin) from Stepanakert. However, Kevorkov, deputy director of TASS at the time, supported (Burkin). Consequently, we received no reply to our appeals.

The information provided by (Burkin) on the 20 November helicopter crash in Martuninskiy Rayon has greatly angered the Azerbaijani people once again. His reporting again distorted the facts.

We appeal to you once again, urging you to withdraw the TASS correspondent in Stepanakert and regard AZERINFORM reports as the main source on all important incidents in the NKAO.

Deputies in Stepanakert To Deploy Units

LD2711185391 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1745 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] In Stepanakert today a session of the people's deputies adopted a decision to hold a referendum in December on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh. The session stated its readiness to deploy units and subunits of the USSR Ministry of Internal Troops on the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Attacks on Villages Reported; Bodies Found

NC2711150991 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Several towns in the (Doludzhy) Rayon have been fired on. Five people were wounded, and a house was destroyed in the attacks.

The Azerbaijan Ministry of Internal Affairs has disclosed that fire was opened from the direction of Shamshadinskiy Rayon in Armenia. Armed men fired intensively on Duzvekilli town in Kedabekskiy Rayon on the same day [not further specified]. No one was wounded in the attacks.

Armed Armenians fired on Kirkidzhan with missile launchers and automatic arms on the night between 24 and 25 November. Fire was also opened from Stepanakert. Three houses were destroyed and six others partly damaged. Townspeople, who have learned from bitter experience, left their homes, seeking safe places to hide. Members of the republic's militia organization returned fire.

Bodies have been discovered. They are those of residents of Yukhary Askipara town in Kazakhskiy Rayon captured by armed Armenians near Voskepar town in Armenia on 30 October.

'Guerrillas' Gathering in Armenia on Border

LD2711164291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev]

[Text] Baku, 27 Nov (TASS)—Guerrillas are gathering and guns are being installed in Armenian populated areas near the border with Azerbaijan, an aide to Elshad

Mamedov, head of executive power of Kazakhskiy Rayon, told an AZERINFORM correspondent. After fire was returned by members of the Azerbaijani militia, the shelling of the border village of Dyuz Rasullu stopped today. There were no casualties.

Border Incidents Reported

LD2711191891 Baku Radio Baku Network in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The undeclared war against our republic does not subside even for a day. The AZERINFORM correspondent contacted the most volatile points in the republic and received the following information:

The calm that was achieved in the last two days in the area of Kazakhskiy Rayon on the Armenian border is rather shaky, reported (Elshad Mamedov), the aide to the head of executive power there. Major forces of armed Armenian militants are gathering in the Armenian-populated points near the border. Artillery weapons are being installed. It is obvious that preparations for military action are under way. Militia posts are once again being reinforced in border villages. The male population of (Tseremli) went back to the village in order to defend their homes from the enemy. All women, children, and elderly people have been temporarily evacuated from (Tseremli) for their own safety.

(Mikhail Genzanov), head of the executive power of the Shushinskiy Rayon, reported that about midnight last night, three shots from a grenade launcher were fired at a militia post on the outskirts of Shusha from a [word indistinct] motorized rifle unit of the Soviet Army. Fortunately there were no casualties. According to our information, most of the middle-ranking officers of this unit are of Armenian nationality. Our militiamen did not respond to the provocation shots, although they have the necessary means for appropriate response to the enemy.

As of this morning the situation in the [word indistinct] area is relatively calm. After the return of fire by the Kedabek department of interior affairs, the shelling of the border village of [word indistinct] by the Armenian side halted today. There were no casualties. According to information received from Major (Sebek Shirimov), deputy head of Kedabek department of interior affairs, in recent days in Krasnoselskiy and Shamshadinskiy Rayons of Armenia, major forces of Armenian armed militants have been gathering on the border.

Section on Railroad Pelted With Stones 23 Nov

LD2711183191 Baku Radio Baku Network in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] In connection with the total stoppage of traffic on the Baku-Nakhichevan railroad section, the directorate of the Azerbaijan Railroad has decided to convey passengers traveling to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic by additional trains to the station of Astara and then transport them onwards by road transport via Iran. The (?situation) on the Astara-Lenkoran section causes alarm. On 23 November the Astara-Baku train was pelted with stones on the Astara-Kamyshevka section by persons unknown. As a result, all the windows of the locomotive and some on the passenger cars were broken. Only by good fortune was none of the passengers or crew injured.

These instances are not rare. Measures are being taken to pass all the materials to the investigative bodies. The leadership of the Railroad Directorate appeals to the inhabitants of the above-mentioned regions to cease attacking trains, because such actions can lead to extremely unpleasant consequences.

Armenians Blamed for Cut in Communications

NC2811192991 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The Central Television's information programs have been unceasingly spreading reports throughout the country about the so-called [word indistinct] by Azerbaijan against the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO]. This time they have claimed that the inter-city telephone links with Khankendi [formerly Stepanakert] have been cut.

An AZERINFORM correspondent has asked Nazir Akhmedov, deputy minister of communications, to comment on the matter. Akhmedov said: We have been angered by [words indistinct]. The inter-city telephone links in the NKAO have been disrupted, but we should not be blamed for that. A bridge close to Khankendi on the Khankendi-Shusha highway was destroyed on 24 November. The telephone lines under the bridge were damaged. This was a destructive action by the Armenian [word indistinct]. Consequently, telephone links were cut not only with Khankendi, but also with Shusha, Lachin, Kel'badzhar, and Nackhichevan. It is strange that, for one reason or another, the Central Television has not reported the blockade of Nakhichevan by Armenia for many months now. The absence of telephone links in the 36 Azerbaijani towns in the NKAO for nearly two and a half years also has not been mentioned. Communications are established with these towns only through field radios. We urged the former government organs in the NKAO several times to restore communication links in the Azerbaijani towns, but they only responded by cutting communications altogether.

Turkey Cautions Against 'Severe Measures'

NC2911091191 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1400 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The letter sent to Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov of Azerbaijan by Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel of Turkey said the following: The tense situation in Azerbaijan, resulting from recent incidents in which several of our Azerbaijani brothers died, has created anxiety and unease in Turkey.

The letter, read at a news conference held by the Turkish Foreign Ministry representative, said that there should be an effort not to adopt decisions which could create undesirable results and worsen the situation. It also emphasized the need to try to restore former Azerbaijan-Armenia relations.

Suleyman Demirel was convinced that the Azerbaijani people will face incidents calmly, solving problems without resorting to severe measures.

The letter was delivered to Baku through the Turkish Embassy in the Soviet Union.

Nakhichevan Demands Soviet Troop Withdrawal

LD2811001791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 2330 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The leadership of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic is demanding the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from its territory. This was stated by G. Aliyev, chairman of Nakhichevan's Supreme Majlis. As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports, referring to the Nega agency, several days ago Aliyev received a letter from Vadim Bakatin, head of the Interrepublican Security Service, in which the latter asked that normal conditions be created for the life and activities of military units. Then, Yuriy Grekov, first deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District, arrived in the republic. In a conversation with him, Aliyev stated "we do not want the presence of a foreign states's troops on our territory, and we demand their immediate withdrawal. If the Union Defense Department intends to maintain their troops here, then let it pay the Nakhichevan government a tax for damage inflicted, as the U.S. does, maintaining its troops in the Philippines."

Nakhichevan To Meet Needs Through Iran

NC2711161191 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] As reported earlier, the railway link between the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic and the rest of Azerbaijan was cut four days ago, after militia units in Zangelan discovered firearms on a train on the Kafan-Yerevan track. A group of young Armenians was arrested on suspicion. Regardless of a Central Television claim, no women and children were sent to prison.

There has been a new provocation. The Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic power supply has been suspended. Yasin Seferov, deputy director of the power supply network, told an AZERINFORM correspondent that the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic received most of its power from (Akhsapa) via Armenia. He asserted: Electricity has been supplied to only a few residential areas, bakeries, hospitals, and water supply installations since power was suspended on 24 November. Industrial installations, most rayon centers, and villages are without electricity or heating.

The republic's Council of Ministers held an extended meeting on 25 November to examine ways to resolve the existing situation. The council decided that the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's needs for pharmaceutical drugs, essential provisions, and equipment will be met through the Islamic Republic of Iran, with whom an agreement was reached earlier.

Georgia

Reportage Highlights S. Ossetian Developments

Council Establishes 'Republic'

OW2811132791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpt] At its session concluded in Tskhinvali on Tuesday [26 November] the council of the South Ossetian autonomous region located on Georgian territory decided to establish the Republic of South Ossetia. E. Gassiev was appointed the republic's prime minister and chairman of its parliament.

The session imposed a state of emergency throughout the Republic of South Ossetia. [passage omitted]

State of Emergency Declared

LD2811194991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1918 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 28 Nov (TASS)—The decision to introduce the state of emergency and universal mobilization was adopted today at the session of the Soviet of People's Deputies of South Ossetia that took place in Tskhinvali. It was also decided to resume the activites of the South Ossetian Supreme Soviet. Torez Kulumbekov was elected Supreme Soviet chairman. The session spoke in favor of the reunion of South Ossetia, which is part of Georgia, with the Russian Federation. North Ossetia, as it is known, is part of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]. It adopted appeals to the peoples of Russia and to heads of governments of the sovereign republics. Messages have been sent to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin.

Leader on 'Unpredictable' Events

LD2711163891 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Television News Service" report]

[Text] In a TASS interview, Galazov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the South Ossetian Republic, today stated that because the Georgian parliament's revocation of the state of emergency in Tskhinvali and Dzhavskiy Rayon in South Ossetia, events in the autonomous republic are acquiring an unpredictable nature. According to some reports, supplies to Tskhinvali have ceased completely and roads have been cut off. Detachments of fighters, Georgian militia, and groupings of the so-called Georgian falcons, with armored equipment and hail gun systems, are closing in on the approaches to the town.

Gamsakhurdia Wants Troops Out

LD2711193191 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Television News Service" report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Georgian President Gamsakhurdia has sent telegrams to the USSR and Russian presidents, USSR State Council, and RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, in which he alleges that USSR Internal Affairs Ministry Internal Troops are taking military actions against the Georgian population. Gamsakhurdia insists on their withdrawal from the territory of South Ossetia, but the functions of the Internal Troops subunits stationed in the autonomous oblast involve only defense of the local population. They have no orders to interfere in the armed conflict. [passage omitted]

Situation Remains 'Tense'

LD2711141491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1217 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 27 Nov (TASS)—The situation in South Ossetia remains extremely tense. According to reports from the South Ossetia press center, the blockade is closing in more and more tightly around Tskhinvali, the center of the autonomous oblast. It has been learned from reliable sources that not only guerrillas, but detachments of the Georgian militia, formations of "Georgian falcons," armored equipment, and artillery weapons [gradoboynyye artilleriyskiye sistemy] are gathering on the approaches to Tskhinvali.

The people of South Ossetia continue to demand that the country's leadership immediately introduce a state of emergency throughout the entire autonomous oblast; that women, children, old people, and the wounded be urgently evacuated from the areas of armed conflict; and that USSR Interior Ministry troops be stationed in the region.

The leadership of the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic and the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast call upon the leadership of the Republic of Georgia to resolve all disputes through peaceful means and to prevent a new escalation of armed conflict and confrontation in South Osetia.

Armed Georgians Mass Around Tskhinvali

OW2811160291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1532 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the intelligence service of the army unit stationed in South Ossetia, armed Georgians continue to concentrate around Tskhinvali.

Up to 17,000 men with some 60 units of military equipment, such as armoured vehicles, personnel carriers and even tanks, have gathered outside the city.

Members of the intelligence service believe that Georgian units might stage a raid on the city.

According to information obtained from the circles connected with South Ossetia's Orthodox Church community, the Georgians are planning a number of terrorist acts on the only road between Tskhinvali and Java that remains free so far. If movement along the road is stopped, Tskhinvali will be under a total blockade.

Attack on Tskhinvali Denied

AU2711122691 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0522 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Ministry of Internal Affairs press center statement"]

[Text] During the last few days, the central press and TV have been systematically reporting that the situation has again become tense in the territory of former South Ossetia and that there have been casualties. This is true, but the central press and TV are reporting nothing about the barbaric acts that have been committed by Ossetian militants and USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] internal troops. They are blaming the Georgian side for the tragedy in the region. Despite the fact that relevant information from our press center has been communicated via TASS and SAKINFORM, central press and TV did not mention the burning of eight Georgian villages and the killing and burning of the remaining old people by Ossetian bandits on 13 October. Nothing was said about two Georgian hostages who were tortured to death or about the fact that, since 8 November, construction materials and food products have not been delivered to those Georgian villages affected by the natural disasters because the road through Tskhinvali has been blocked by Ossetian bandits.

The most significant thing is that the central mass media has said nothing about the punitive operations by the internal troops in Tskhinvali against the Georgian population, in particular, that soldiers in APC's have been setting ambushes in villages in Gori Rayon that are outside the state of emergency zone and have been firing at passing automobiles, wounding several passengers.

At the end of August, Spartak [name indistinct], an inhabitant of the village of Mamisaantubani, was killed by gunfire.

During the night of 23 November, Ossetian militants launched rockets and grenades and fired bullets from the direction of Tskhinvali upon the villages of Zemo Nikozi and Ergneti in Gori Rayon. Two villagers were killed and several people were wounded. APC's containing USSR MVD Internal Troops participated in this attack. During the same night, a helicopter belonging to the internal troops fired rockets at the villages of Zemo Nikozi, Ergneti, Tamarasheni, Avnevi, [name indistinct], and other Georgian villages.

Recently, AFP using SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA as its source, transmitted false reports that Republic of Georgia President Zviad Gamsakhurdia had stated that 23 November would be a day of revenge and that a large-scale military offensive would be launched upon Tskhinvali. On 22 November, the Republic of Georgia MVD press center informed AFP that the information it had spread was totally unfounded [word indistinct] the agency apologized. We informed TASS about this and also KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, which was planning to publish this disinformation. Despite this, however, central TV and radio again repeated these falsehoods for two days and misled millions of viewers and listeners and, what is most significant, exacerbated a situation that has already reached a critical level.

Naturally, no large-scale offensive upon Tskhinvali took place on 23 November. On the contrary, during the night of 23 November, as already mentioned, Ossetian militants, together with units of internal troops, attacked the peaceful Georgian population in the villages of Zemo Nikozi and Ergneti. Central TV made no mention of this. On the contrary, on 24 and 25 November, the program [name indistinct] ironically stated that the attack had ostensibly failed and added new false information claiming that Georgian militants were concentrating around Tskhinvali.

This kind of disinformation issued by the central press and TV and its obviously biased nature seriously prevents the halting of bloodshed and the restoration of peace in the region.

This was a statement issued by the Republic of Georgia MVD press center.

'Fragile Lull' Reported

LD2811231591 Moscow TASS in English 2241 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz November 28—There is a fragile lull in South Ossetia, according to a report of the press centre of the autonomous district's information committee. Fire was opened on Wednesday [27 November] night in Tskhinvali and in the Znauri district. Explosions were heard. Houses were damaged in northern and southern outskirts of Tskhinvali. Five people received bullet wounds.

It is believed here that a temporary lull is connected with the redeployment of Georgian militants. After a failed storm of Tskhinvali, they retreated from the outskirts of the city which was staunchily defended. North Ossetian militia units interfered in the armed conflict.

It became known that a large number of militants' units are being concentrated on the border of the Tskhinvali and Znauri districts. Armoured vehicles, hail guns and cannons are being brought there from the Gori route.

There are reports that in remote Ossetian villages militants continue punitive operations against peaceful people. A group of investigators of the USSR Interior Ministry discovered 14 unidentified corpses in the territory of the Znauri and Tskhinvali districts.

Armed Group Raids Military Installation

LD2711161691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1458 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 Nov (TASS)—Major Vladimir Berilov was the victim of an armed raid carried out by unidentified people on an equipment repair base in the Transcaucasian Military District last night. There were about 40 raiders armed with machine guns. They managed to steal nine cars before they disappeared. Measures to find them have yielded no results yet.

It is believed that the same armed group stole several more military vehicles and a radio set on the morning of 26 November.

None of the armed groups that are active in the republic has claimed responsibility for these raids.

Interior Ministry Issues Warning

LD2711204791 Moscow TASS in English 2003 GMT 27 Nov 91

[By correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi November 27 TASS—Any encroachments on military property of the Soviet Army in Georgia, attacks or provocations against its personnel will be suppressed and punished with all severity of the law, says a statement of the republican Interior Ministry's press service.

The statement was made in connection with today's armed attack of unknown persons at a military facility in Tbilisi, in which an officer was killed.

Certain political forces are interested in stirring up conflicts between servicemen and civilians in order to destabilize the situation in Georgia, says the document.

Kazakhstan

Iran's Velayati Pays Visit, Holds Meetings

Memo of Understanding Signed

LD2811092991 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Alma-Ata on Wednesday reviewed Iran-Kazakhstan relations with the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Sergey Aleksandrovich Tereshchenko. The prime minister of Kazakhstan told the visiting Iranian foreign minister that the Soviet republic has a considerably high economic and industrial potential for a fruitful cooperation with Iran. He noted that Kazakhs look forward to establishing closer relations with Iran and welcome the establishment of air travel between the capitals of the two countries, transit of goods between the two as well as exoloitation of ports and shipping facilities at the Caspian Sea.

Velayati and the prime minister of the Kazakh Republic agreed on the formation of task committees for formulating a framework within which the two countries may cooperate in the future. The committees met subsequently Wednesday and drew up the common grounds for cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan in the form of a letter of understanding which was later signed by the two officials. Later on Wednesday the Iranian foreign minister visited the Farabi University in Alma-Ata and addressed a large group of students there in tribute to the Iranian philosopher and scientist Farabi. Farabi (A.D. 878- 950) was one of the most brilliant and famed of Muslim philosophers, who was also known as the 'second teacher', Aristotle being the first.

Velayati arrived in the Soviet capital last Sunday on a 10-day visit to Moscow and six Muslim-populated Asian republics. Velayati and his entourage left Moscow for the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata Tuesday night after meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and presenting messages from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Velayati and the accompanying delegation are to visit the republics of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

Discusses Ties With Nazarbayev

LD2811155991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1445 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By KAZTAG-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 28 Nov (KAZTAG-TASS)—Confidence in the fact that contacts between Iran and Kazakhstan will develop actively on a mutually beneficial basis was expressed today during a meeting in Dzhambul between Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The head of Iran's diplomacy is paying an official visit to Kazakhstan. In his view, setting up transport ties, both rail and water, can play a useful role in this process. 'Ali Akbar Velayati also expressed the wish to open general consulates, on a mutual basis, in Tehran and Alma-Ata.

Having approved the results of the Alma-Ata talks with the Iranian delegation, Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that all objective prerequisites exist for setting up the closest trade and economic relations between both states. Kazakhstan and the Central Asian republics, in his view, are interested, via Iran and Turkey, in cooperation with countries in the Persian Gulf. Moreover, the geopolitical situation of the Central Asian region is very useful for becoming an active go-between in ties between West and East, which are gathering strength.

In Nursultan Nazarbayev's view, it is worth preparing corresponding treaties on a number of proposals expressed by the Iranian side during the talks, which could be signed during his forthcoming visit to Iran.

Document Proposes Declaring Aral Disaster Zone

PM2911143191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Nov 91 Union Edition p 8

[Correspondent V. Ardayev report: "Aral Sea: Environmental Situation Worsening"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The DANA-PRESS news agency has issued the text of a proposal by the State Committee for Ecology, the Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Health of the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], and the Kazakh State Committee for Hydrometeorology on declaring the territories adjoining the shores of the former Aral Sea an environmental disaster zone.

The proposal has been sent to the republic's Cabinet of Ministers. The document notes that the ecological situation in the region is out of control. The loss of salt and dust from the dried-out bed of the Aral Sea is intensifying. The hazardous pollution with pesticides and salinization of the Syr-Darya River are continuing. The level of ground water has risen, buildings are being destroyed, soil fertility is declining, and pasture land is being degraded. The genetic stock of the flora and fauna is being lost. The living conditions and health of the population have deteriorated and the level of general and infant mortality has risen.

The authors of the document propose establishing the border of an environmental disaster zone in the Kazakh section of the Aral region. In their opinion, this area should include all the territory of Kzyl-Orda Oblast as well as a number of rayons of Aktyubinsk, Chimkent, and Dzhezkazgan Oblasts. Within the environmental disaster zone it is planned to highlight a zone of catastrophe (Aralskiy and Kazalinskiy Rayons in Kzyl-Orda

Oblast and Chelkarskiy Rayon in Aktyubinsk Oblast). Irreversible qualitative changes to the natural environment have occurred here.

According to some sources, the authors of the document are not interested in its publication. There is clearly just one reason for this: the lack of resources to help the people living in the Kazakh part of the Aral Sea region. In all, around 3 million people are now living in dire conditions on the shores of the Aral Sea—in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan.

Kyrgyzstan

Details of Prime Minister's Death Reported

LD2911120191 Moscow TASS in English 1146 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Bishkek November 29 TASS—Narsidin Isanov, the prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, was killed today in a car accident, TASS was told by the press office of the republican president.

Isanov was making a tour of the republic with a representative of a foreign firm. On their way from the city of Dzhalal-Abad to Osh an oncoming truck, driving on the wrong side of the road, hit the prime minister's car head on.

Isanov died in 17 minutes without recovering consciousness. The driver and the second passenger were not injured.

Nasirdin Isanov was born November 7, 1943 in the Kok-Bel settlement in Kyrgyzstan. He started working in construction at the age of 17, and later graduated from the Moscow Engineering and Construction Institute.

He worked in the republican ministry for construction and in top Communist Party bodies.

He was elected vice president of Kyrgyzstan in 1990, and in January 1991 Isanov was appointed prime minister of the republic.

Tajikistan

Opponent Alleges Bogus Votes Cast for Nabiyev

PM2811133791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Nov 91 Union Edition p 1

[Valeriy Vyzhutovich commentary under the general heading "Result of Tajik Presidential Election: Nabiyev-Khudonazarov. 57-31"]

[Text] The result of the 24 November Tajik presidential election contains no sensations: The winner is Rakhmon Nabiyev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet and former first secretary of the republic's Communist Party Central Committee. The only thing that is somewhat surprising, perhaps, is the ratio of the votes cast for him and for the second contender for the presidential post—Davlat Khudonazarov, a USSR people's deputy and chairman of the country's Confederation of Creative Unions of Cinematographers. That ratio—approximately 57-31—reflects a noticeable movement, albeit not enough for victory, by the republic's people toward the democratic aims proclaimed by Khudonazarov (the election turnout was 84.6 percent). The political sympathies for him, as the results of the vote show, do not just reflect the preference for a cultured intellectual—many were convinced of that before—but clearly have the features of relatively broad support.

When assessing the results of this election, however, one should guard against a simple interpretation. In any event, the result should not be attributed just to the political confrontation between the two main contenders and the forces backing them. The struggle for power in Tajikistan, as throughout Central Asia, also bears a systematic character. Thus it cannot be ruled out that in supporting Khudonazarov, some people were voting not so much for him as against the Leninabad clans represented by Nabiyev. In that case it is hard to consider the victory of the former party functionary as purely political just as it is hard to attribute the 31 percent of the vote in Khudonazarov's favor exclusively to the democratic aspirations of his supporters.

There is another reason why the outcome of the Tajik elections cannot be seen as a result of the rivalry between the party apparatchik and the democrat. Real policy here is formed not at rallies in the capital but in the auls and kishlaks, where the position of the Muslim clergy is strong. If you take into account that Khudonazarov represented the Islamic Revival Party in the election, then the proportion of the votes in his favor might have been even more impressive. At a press conference, Khudonazarov himself officially stated: "We believe that at least 10-15 percent of the votes allegedly cast for Nabiyev were bogus. I know of cases in which the figures were distorted, the Law on Elections breached, and independent observers excluded from the scrutiny. Therefore I have protested to the Supreme Soviet and I am demanding that the result of the election be deemed null and void."

As reported, thousands of people gathered on Dushanbe's central square on Monday to protest against Nabiyev's victory. It seems that the election result is going to cause fresh upheavals in the republic.

Uzbekistan

Defense Minister on Relations With Union Forces

PM2211142391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Nov 91 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Major General R. Akhmedov, Uzbekistan minister for defense affairs, by correspondent Major

S. Knyazkov under the general heading "Is the Union Army in Danger of Splitting Up?" place and date not given: "Major General R. Akhmedov: As We Work, We Cooperate"—first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] Uzbekistan—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already published an interview with Major General R. Akhmedov, Republic of Uzbekistan minister for defense affairs. However, recent months have been so full of varied events that our correspondent again thought it necessary to meet with him.

[Knyazkov] It is just past 1900, but in your office, Rustam Urmanovich, I found a number of officers dealing with official questions. Nor is the waiting room room emptying....

[Akhmedov] We have to work till late in the evening; after all, right now our ministry is still in the process of being formed. The structure and staff are being sorted out. Let me remind you that the ministry has been created on the basis of the existing structures of military commissariats, the civil defense staff, the Central Committee of the republic's Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy, and the special directorate for predraft training under the Republic of Uzbekistan Cabinet of Ministers.

It is intended that I will have a first deputy and three other deputies. The maximum number of people in the apparatus has been set at 268 (not counting the alternative service administration and servicing personnel).

[Knyazkov] How are mutual relations between the USSR Defense Ministry leadership and the Turkestan Military District command shaping up?

[Akhmedov] On the whole the USSR Defense Ministry leadership understands and supports our aspirations. Admittedly, things have been fairly uneven. For example, the chief of the General Staff and the commander in chief of Ground Forces believed that the national guard is our internal problem and suggested that we maintain it out of republic funds. We proceeded from different considerations.... In our opinion, the national guard is the Armed Forces' combat reserve. Moreover, the center did not support our idea of combining the training process of army and national guard cadre units.

Regarding cooperation with the Turkestan Military District, it is extremely close and mutually beneficial. Suffice it to say that at the Uzbek president's request, the post of Turkestan Military District deputy commander for cooperation with the civil and military leadership of republics on whose territory the district is located has been introduced into the army. Major General R. Khadyrbayev has been appointed to this post. Moreover, the deputy commander of the district's troops will be a member of our ministry's military collegium, and one of my deputies will be a member of the Turkestan Military District Military Council.

And finally, I believe there will be no barrier between us as regards officers' career development. Someone from the district can come to us if they wish, at the same time as we will transfer other officers to the district. Bearing this in mind, I want to announce that an agreement has been reached between the country's Defense Ministry and the Republic of Uzbekistan Ministry of Military Affairs that all officers working for us are to retain all rights and entitlements specified for officers of the USSR Armed Forces.

[Knyazkov] On the day I arrived the republic press reported that a session had been held in the republic president's apparatus devoted to a discussion of President I. Karimov's Decree "On Measures To Improve the Draft and Military Service of the Republic's Youth " Did you take part in discussing this document?

[Akhmedov] Yes. Even before we paid very close attention to the issues of the drafting of our countrymen and their military service.

Suffice it to say that this year alone more than 160 delegations from our republic have visited military units. During these trips representatives of the public talked with their fellow countrymen serving in the military and took an interest in their conditions of service. Unfortunately, there were also sad reasons for their visits to the troops. Some 328 of our draftees have died in the army this year alone, and 300 of these were young men of Uzbek nationality.

Quite a few of the tragedies occurred in military construction units. Therefore since fall 1990 the dispatch of young men to military construction units outside the borders of Uzbekistan has been stopped. Moreover, the drafting of young people into military service now takes place in our country in line with an agreement concluded this spring between the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and the republic's Cabinet of Ministers. This gave us the chance to resolve independently a number of questions that relate to the exemption from military service of those who have grounds for being exempted.

Young men whose elder brothers have died while doing their military service in peacetime will not be drafted. Nor will only sons in a family and nor will shepherds. Youngest sons of families are also exempted from compulsory military service if their elder brothers have served or are serving in the army.

Currency Sale, Purchase Restrictions Lifted

LD2511185991 Moscow TASS Inernational Service in Russian 1142 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tashkent, 25 Nov (UZTAG-TASS)—With the aim of attracting foreign currency funds, the Cabinet of

Ministers, under the president of Uzbekistan, has adopted a resolution on organizing a system of free purchase and sale of foreign currency for rubles on the territory of the Republic. The Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Uzbekistan have been instructed to draw up and introduce by 1 December an effective mechanism for the free purchase and sale of foreign currency for rubles, and to expand the network of exchange offices and specialized bourses.

All restrictions on opening foreign currency accounts and also on banks receiving ready cash in foreign currency have been lifted. Foreign currency in citizens' accounts can be issued at their request without restriction or special permission. Payment of interest is planned on an agreed basis. It is planned to expand the network of enterprises trading for foreign currency in the republic.

Such a resolution has been adopted because of the need to protect the interests of Uzbekistan and its population in conditions of rising inflation, to create the necessary conditions to expand foreign economic activity, and to increase the republic's foreign currency resources.